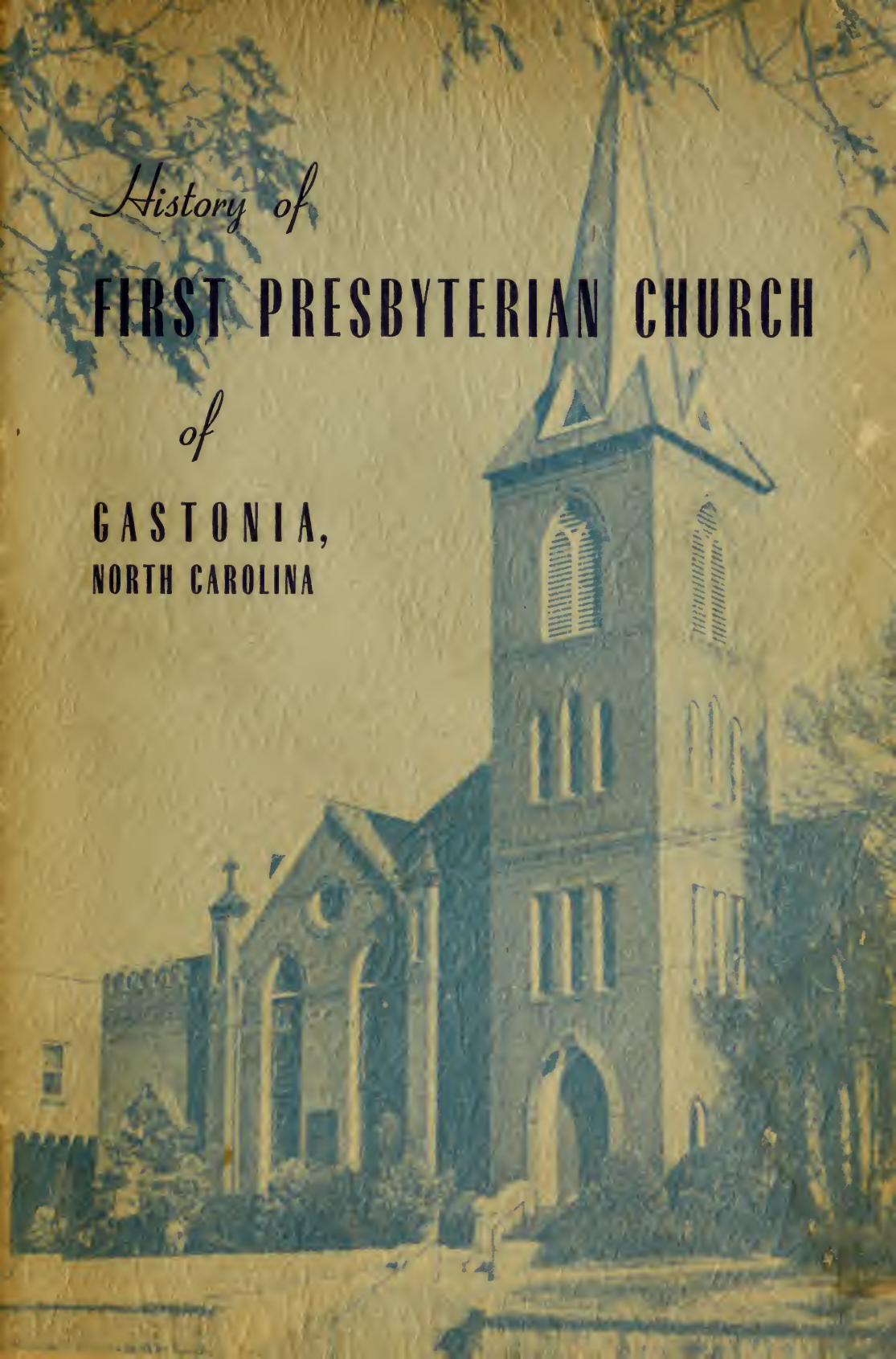


*History of*

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*of*

GASTONIA,  
NORTH CAROLINA











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*History of*  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
**GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA**



*by Hugh A. Query*

**MARCH, 1948**

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## Foreword

The committee appointed by the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia, N. C. to prepare a history of the church, is pleased to place in the hands of the members a history of the church from its organization in 1883 to the present time. This embraces a history which was written by Rev. M. McG. Shields, who brought the history down to the early part of 1899. He was pastor here from 1897 to 1904. The present volume takes up the history from 1899 and brings it down to date.

From a small mission point as a daughter of Olney Church the First Presbyterian Church has grown into a great and powerful organization with 1,300 members and a yearly budget of around \$50,000. Its contributions in 1947 were in excess of \$100,000. It is estimated that the church, since its organization in 1883 has contributed to all causes no less than \$1,500,000.

Such growth prompted the members of the church to want a history of the accomplishments and outstanding events of the years. The committee below was appointed and named Hugh A. Query, an elder of the church, to be the author of the volume. Mr. Query, editor of The Gastonia Gazette for 28 years, was eminently qualified to undertake the task of compiling this history. He had personal knowledge of many of the events mentioned, had access to old records and data, and had taken part in the progress of the church for many years. He has been diligent and painstaking in collecting information and writing the history, and has used great care in establishing a truthful and accurate account. He has carried on this work with little help from the committee or from the outside, purely as a labor of love. But, the wide and enthusiastic reception which we are sure this volume will have, and the inspiration for our people for greater and more effective work to be recorded later, will be sufficient reward for him, as this history of the First Presbyterian Church finds a place in every home within our bounds, and in homes far distant where the members of our church have gone forth to bless the world.

J. H. Kennedy, Chm.  
D. R. LaFar, Jr.  
W. R. Sparrow  
Ralph H. Falls  
George G. Glenn

Caldwell Ragan  
Fred L. Smyre, Jr.  
Ralph S. Robinson  
Walter P. Moore  
E. J. Rankin

Hugh A. Query  
Charles I. Loftin, Jr.  
Mrs. Minnie H. Curry  
Mrs. Geo. V. Patterson  
Mrs. S. A. Kindley



*First Presbyterian Church*



*The View From Marietta Street*



*The Pastor*



*Rev. Irving M. Ellis*





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## CHAPTER I

### *Early Pioneer Years*

The Presbyterian Church of Gastonia was founded in 1882, some 66 years ago, as the result of preaching done by the pastors of Olney Church at a railway crossing in this town, a mere village at that time. Among these pastors were Rev. W. B. Corbett, and Rev. J. J. Kennedy, father of J. H. Kennedy and of Mrs. Frost Torrence of our present congregation.

The first history of the church from its early days in the 1880s down to the time of the building of the present church and its dedication, was written by Rev. M. McG. Shields, the seventh pastor of the church, in the year 1899, a few months after the building had been dedicated.

Had it not been for that valuable work by Mr. Shields, the early history of this church, the romantic and stirring story of its founding, its early struggles against many obstacles and its ultimate and triumphant success, would have been irrevocably lost. Copies of the beautiful little booklet he had published are now rare. Fortunate is that family which possesses one with its pictures of the early pioneers of the church and the first pictures of the present church when the large water oak trees in the side yard were mere saplings.

Mr. Shields brought the history of the church from its founding down to the date of the dedication on September 11, 1898, half a century ago.

This volume proposes to go back and include his history, "verbatim et literatim", take up the history where his book ended and bring it down to date.

In trying to cover 50 years of history since that time, it is evident that there will be imperfections and omissions. If this history could have been written some 25 years ago, before the deaths of many of the sainted patriarchs who helped make it, the account would have been much more

complete and authentic. Under the circumstances we have done the best we could, considering the loss of many early records and minutes.

It was thought appropriate that the introduction to this story of the First Presbyterian Church might well contain the inspirational and eloquent message from the distinguished divine, who preached the dedicatory sermon, Dr. Walter W. Moore, then president of Union Theological Seminary, inasmuch as the key thought of his message of 50 years ago is still the guiding light of the church today. A short resume of the services of that day and of Dr. Moore's sermon is hereby given. In its issue of September 14, 1898, The Gastonia Gazette, a weekly newspaper of that day, said:

DEDICATORY SERMON PREACHED  
BY DR. W. W. MOORE, SEPTEMBER 11, 1898

"Last Sunday was a welcome and a happy day for the Presbyterian congregation of Gastonia, for then it was after four years of continuous work and hopeful waiting they were able to dedicate free of all debt their beautiful house of worship. There were present many visitors from neighboring churches and of the same faith and from other denominations of the town, including a goodly number of colored people; so that the auditorium was entirely filled and the galleries and the Sunday school rooms were brought into requisition for the overflow.

"The morning services were opened with "Come Unto Me", excellently rendered by the large choir, Miss Alda Smyre, being organist. A brief prayer was offered by the pastor, Rev. M. McG. Shields. After other preliminary services Dr Moore announced as the text of the sermon this expression, 'The prince of the kings of the earth', from Revelations, 1:5."

Leading up to his sermon, Dr. Moore sketched briefly the life of Christ, the carpenter's son. He died despised and rejected of men. He had lived only about 30 years and had preached only three years. The world took small note of his having lived in it. Only one writer, Tacitus, though a voluminous historian, even makes mention of him, and then in

two or three lines apologetically. But there came a reversion of feeling. Within 300 years the Roman Emperor embraced Christianity. Wider and stronger has grown the sway of the Nazarene over the hearts of mankind. Thousands of churches are dedicated every year to his service.

"Dedicate your house then to the Saviour of mankind, the prince of the kings of earth," said Dr. Moore. "And when, heartsick with the cares of the world, and laden with sorrow you come up to the house of God, may you here find comfort for your soul. If you are harassed by temptation, may you resolve to obey the commandments of God, and find strength. When your young men and maidens come here to seal their vows of affection, may they derive life-long inspiration from your care, teaching and example. And when you leave this world, may your life be a benediction, full of sweetness and strength to those who gathered to do respect to your memory". Following Dr. Moore's sermon, communion services were held and at night a union service of all the churches was held with Dr. Moore doing the preaching.

The history of the building of this church, the movement which led to the naming of the first committee in October, 1894, the cost and other interesting details will be given as this history unfolds.

With this brief introduction and explanation, let us take up the history of the church from its beginnings as recorded by Rev. Mr. Shields in 1898 and read at the time of the dedication of the church on the above named date, September 11, 1898. It is as follows:

## REV. W. B. CORBETT HELD SERVICES AS EARLY AS 1875-1882

"In the fall of 1875, the Chester & Lenoir railroad, now known as the Carolina & North-Western, crossed the Piedmont Airline road twenty-one miles west of Charlotte in Gaston county. A depot was established at the intersection, and from the name of the county it was called Gastonia. Situated in a good farming section and in the midst of a thrifty, industrious people, it soon gave signs of becoming

more than a way station. Men of means and energy moved to the new town, and in a short while a thriving village was the result.

"There was a small Methodist church in what is now East Gastonia, and services were held by the Baptists in a school house near-by. Rev. W. B. Corbett, who was for five years pastor of Union and Olney Presbyterian Churches, preached regularly at this place, sometimes using the platform of the depot as a pulpit. He also preached in the hotel, and afterwards in an old store house. Wherever a congregation could be gathered, this faithful man of God proclaimed the Word of Life regardless of weariness or inconvenience. This was then a mission point of the Olney church, most of the resident Presbyterians holding their membership there. The work done by Rev. Mr. Corbett was thorough and successful. It resulted in the desire on the part of the members here for a separate organization. They had strong faith in Gastonia's future, and were anxious to begin their church work at once. On account of the fact that Olney was only three and one-half miles away, the wisdom of this movement was for a time questioned.

"From this field Rev. Mr. Corbett went to Bennettsville, S. C., where on April 9, 1894, after serving faithfully that church together with McCall and Tatum for twelve years, he peacefully passed into the presence of God, and received the blessed reward given to those who are faithful.

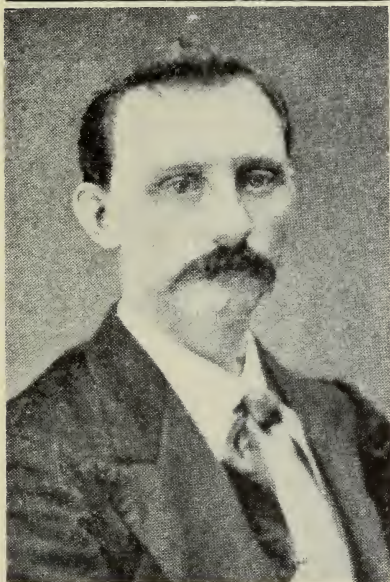
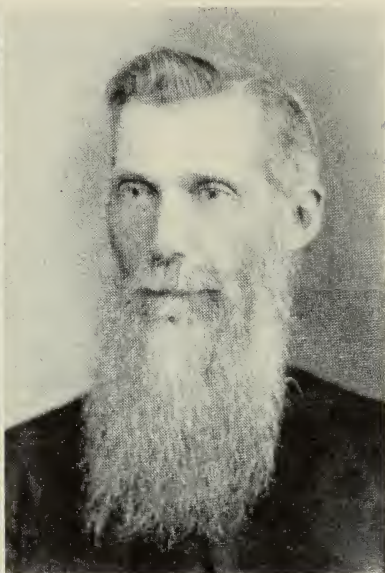
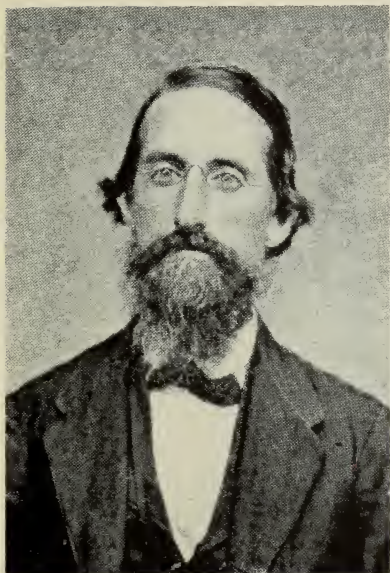
"His memory is cherished in the hearts of this people, and it is now seen that he builded wiser than he knew.

## REV. J. J. KENNEDY SUPPLIED CHURCH FROM 1882 TO 1884

"Rev. J. J. Kennedy succeeded Rev. W. B. Corbett as pastor of the Olney Church, and served in connection with it Long Creek. He preached regularly in the afternoons at Gastonia, as did his predecessor. At this time an academy was built by the citizens of the town, and was used for public worship, and also for a union Sabbath school, in which all the denominations labored harmoniously and successfully.



*First Four Pastors, 1882-1892*



*Rev. W. B. Corbett*  
*Rev. L. R. McCormick*

*Rev. J. J. Kennedy*  
*Rev. W. B. McIlwaine*

"It was through the efforts of this brother and Rev. W. E. McIlwaine that a church organization was effected at this place. The Presbytery of Mecklenburg at its spring session of 1882 appointed a commission consisting of Revs. J. J. Kennedy and G. L. Cook, and Ruling Elders F. L. Leeper, and J. Q. Holland of the Olney Church, to organize a church here, if the way should be clear. The commission met in the Academy at Gastonia July 16, 1882, and the sessions of Olney and Union, the churches most affected by the movement, by invitation met with them. After prayer for divine guidance, the church was organized with the following twenty-two members, sixteen from Olney, four from Union, and two on profession of faith:

"R. H. Adams, Mrs. M. J. Adams, R. H. Bell, Mrs. Annie Bell, Margaret Bell, Sonora Bell, B. G. Bradley, William Bradley, Mrs. Dorcas Bradley, Eliza Bradley, J. H. Craig, Mrs. Mary Craig, J. H. Fayssoux, Mrs. Jemima Fayssoux, J. Q. Holland, Mrs. Julia A. Holland, R. L. Johnston, C. H. Martin, Elvira Smith, A. M. Smyre, Mrs. Sarah A. Smyre.

"The first ruling elders were J. H. Craig, J. Q. Holland, B. G. Bradley and A. M. Smyre.

"The first deacons were R. H. Bell, R. H. Adams and William Bradley, the latter removed to Watauga county, and the other two have gone to give an account of their stewardship; and having been faithful in the few things here, have been made rulers of many things in the Lord's upper and better kingdom.

## SERVICES WERE HELD IN OLD ACADEMY

"Soon after the church was organized, steps were taken to erect a church building, services in the meantime being held in the Academy. The heirs of Joseph Bradley, deceased, presented to the congregation an eligible lot, and a small additional lot was purchased from J. R. Falls for \$50.00. A neat brick structure 35 x 50 feet, with a seating capacity of 400, was erected at a cost of \$1500, all of which, except \$100 from Mecklenburg Presbytery, and \$35 from friends in Charlotte, was promptly paid by the small membership. Thus early Gastonia learned to bear her own burdens, and bear

them well. The lesson of independent self-reliance, together with faith in God, learned thus early in her history, has been very valuable. It has been the guiding principle of her life, and has brought her to the successful conclusion of many important enterprises. When the building was completed, the session requested Rev. R. Z. Johnston, Mr. F. L. Leeper and Rev. W. B. Corbett to assist the Supply in its dedication. The latter, Mr. Corbett, was providentially hindered from attending. The church building was dedicated June 9, 1883, a little less than a year after its organization. The Presbytery met with it the following fall, and was pleased with the taste and liberality manifested by the young church.

“This was a period of beginnings, and the policy of the church needed to be started in correct channels. Many obstacles lay in the way of the church’s progress, and much depended on the way in which the work should be begun. Foundations broad and deep must be laid. Temporary and superficial results must be ignored and plans projected for permanent progress. This was done by the wise discretion of the officers and the stated supply. This relation with Rev. J. J. Kennedy was terminated in February 1884, and it was found that the membership had grown to 47.

## REV. L. R. McCORMICK WAS NEXT PASTOR

1884-1885

“The Presbytery, on February 5, 1884, dissolved the relation of stated supply which had existed between Rev. J. J. Kennedy and this church, and established the same relation between the church, and Rev. L. R. McCormick, who served New Hope at the same time.

“He was a genial, pleasant man, very popular in his social intercourse with the people. He was an easy, fluent and attractive speaker, and soon had his hand well on the work, and found his way to the hearts of the people.

“The ladies had been very active in all the work in which the church was engaged; but, up to this time, had no organization of their own. Some time during the year 1884, a Ladies’ Aid Society was organized, with Mrs. A. M. Smyre

as its first president. The contributions of this society were devoted to different causes, wherever the greatest need seemed to be. Mrs. L. R. McCormick succeeded Mrs. Smyre as president of this society, and probably filled the offices of secretary and treasurer at the same time. This was the beginning of the ladies' work which has been so important in the history of the church.

"By call of the session, a congregational meeting was held the first Sabbath in December of this year, at which Dr. C. E. Adams was elected a deacon, and afterwards was ordained to and installed in said office.

"The supply relation ceased in March 1885. The period of Rev. Mr. McCormick's labors in this church was very brief, extending only a few days over a year, and yet the work was so well and faithfully done, and the members were so active, that the membership at this date numbered 61.

"From this church Rev. Mr. McCormick moved to a field in the Synod of South Carolina, where a few years later, he laid down his work and joyfully obeyed the summons to come up higher. His brief ministration is pleasantly remembered by the members of this church.

## REV. W. E. McILWAINE BEGAN PASTORATE IN 1886

"With a vacancy of about two months, Rev. W. E. McIlwaine took charge of the field composed of this church and New Hope, and was installed the first pastor of this church, for one half of his time, on June 3, 1886.

"The boards of elders and deacons having become somewhat depleted by deaths and removals, the congregation, by call of the session, elected the following officers: R. H. Adams and J. R. Shannon, elders, and R. T. Harper, T. C. Pegram and G. W. Ragan, deacons. These were ordained and installed August 14, 1886.

"In three years, under the leadership of this vigorous, consecrated worker, the church had grown so in numbers and in financial strength that it extended a call to its pastor for the other half of his time. Thus the church became self-supporting in seven years after its organization. The ques-



tion of a home for the pastor was then considered. And, as the result of much labor and self denial on the part of the members a neat, convenient and comfortable manse was erected on Main Street.

"The Ladies' Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized at the manse, February 4, 1889, with Mrs. R. C. G. Love as its first president. The funds collected by this organization were expended in the interest of both Home and Foreign Missions.

"About the same time a Men's Missionary Society was organized, whose object was in the support of Rev. T. R. Sampson, missionary in Greece. With the assistance of the Ladies' Society, this was done until Rev. Mr. Sampson's return to this country. The society was discontinued April 1895.

"Soon it was necessary to add again to the boards of elders and deacons; so January 26, 1890, the session ordained and installed R. C. G. Love and Dr. C. E. Adams, elders, and Dr. E. F. Glenn, F. A. Costner and John F. Love, deacons to which offices they had been regularly elected at a previous congregational meeting.

"The pastor asked that the relation be dissolved that he might enter the Synod's evangelistic work. This was done March 6, 1891, and the membership had increased to 171.

## REV. C. W. ROBINSON, PASTOR UNTIL NOVEMBER 15, 1892

"With scarcely a month's vacancy, Rev. C. W. Robinson, who was then pastor of Graham Street Church, Charlotte, was called to the pastorate, and entered at once upon his labors. He was installed April 18, 1891.

"At this time the grown people, both men and women, were thoroughly organized for effective and progressive work, but no effort had been made to organize the children for their training in practical Christian activity. Very early in this pastorate a Children's Missionary Society was organized with Miss Lizzie Adams as lady manager. From this society there grew the three successful organizations

of young people that now exist in the church, The Band of Hope, The Willing Workers and The Westminster League.

"Rev. Mr. Robinson was a man of thorough consecration and fixed convictions of duty, and he left his impress on the church in many ways. This brief pastorate of one and one-half years covered a period of development along the lines of Christian growth and activity, and was remarkable for the patient, faithful and successful training of those who had been received into the membership of the church. Possessing a high ideal of what the Christian life should be, he labored earnestly to bring the members of his flock to this Scriptural standard. He is endowed with gifts which make him a successful reaper, and his ministry has always been blessed by the in-gathering of many sheaves, but indicated in this instance that he knew equally well how to sow the seed, diligently cultivate the soil, and wait patiently for the harvest.

"At a meeting called on October 30, 1892, the pastor asked the congregation to unite with him in the request that Presbytery dissolve the pastoral relation between them, said relation to terminate November 15, of the same year. This was done, and he gave up his work in this church to enter the city mission work in Winston, N. C.

### REV. R. P. SMITH WAS PASTOR 1893-1896

"In August 1893, Rev. R. P. Smith began his labors in this church in response to their call. His installation as pastor took place December 10, 1893. During this year, the Sabbath school year was made to run concurrent with the ecclesiastical year. Quarterly, instead of semi-annual communion was also established. The present financial system which has been so wonderfully successful, was inaugurated about this time.

"The church building had become too small for the congregation, and was somewhat in need of repairs, and on October 10, 1894, a congregational meeting was called to consider the matter of repairing the church or building a new one. A committee of nine was appointed to take the

whole matter under careful consideration, and also to recommend a suitable location in case it should seem wiser to build a new church. This committee was composed of the following persons: A. C. Williamson, S. E. McArthur, T. C. Pegram, J. R. Shannon, A. M. Smyre, E. N. Lineberger, John F. Love, J. B. Beal and G. W. Lybrand.

"On the 31st of October another meeting of the congregation was called to hear the report of the above committee. The committee recommended unanimously that no repairs be made on the old building, and that the property on Marietta Street, recently obtained from Mr. John L. Rhyne in exchange for the manse property, be used as a site for a new church building.

"This report was adopted. It was also resolved that no solicitations for funds for the erection of the building be made to any person or persons outside the immediate families of the congregation; that, during the building of the church all apportionments to the benevolent causes be paid in full; and that all offerings be voluntary, and that no funds be raised by fairs, suppers, festivals or anything of the kind.

"These resolutions were carried out strictly. Contributions were voluntarily made by friends in other churches both in Gastonia and elsewhere, all of which were most gratefully received and highly appreciated, but no solicitations were made. The following persons were appointed at the above meeting a subscription and building committee: G. W. Ragan, chairman, John F. Love, Dr. C. E. Adams, F. A. Costner, R. C. G. Love and E. N. Lineberger.

## PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING WAS ERECTED IN 1895

"Ground for the new building was broken the first of May, 1895. Then for nine months the congregation watched and practiced self-denial, as the dream of the architect, the pastor, and the building committee slowly took on the beautiful proportions that have since been a delight and cause for gratitude to every member. None save those who have gone through the same experience, can understand the



*Church From Franklin Avenue, 1898*



*Note Size of Water Oak Trees Beside Church*

weight that rests upon a pastor's shoulders, and the duties that fill his hands, during a period of church erection. There is a responsive beat of his heart to every sound of the falling hammer. His hopes and spirits rise as the walls lift their heads above the ground. Every portion of the building, from the stone that sleeps at its foundation to the finial that caps the graceful spire, is mingled with his prayers and yearnings, and sometimes with his very heart's blood. And when the work has all been finished, and the

bell with glad triumphant note calls the worshippers to the new building, deep down in his heart he exclaims, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!"

"The new building, 98 x 66 feet, with a tower 110½ feet, made of red pressed brick, trimmed with brownstone, covered with slate, with a seating capacity of 1,000 including the Sabbath school room, was finished on the first day of February, 1896. On the next day which was the Sabbath, a large congregation, with grateful hearts, filled the beautiful auditorium, and the first service was conducted by the pastor from the text: "And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the Lord," 2 Chron. 11:1. The subject of the discourse was "House-building for God and its Lessons." At night, a union thanksgiving service was held, participated in by the pastors of all the white churches in town.

"In the early fall of the same year, the Presbytery urged its important Home Mission work on this pastor. Arrangements had been made for putting a general evangelist in the field, and after repeated solicitations, Rev. R. P. Smith, very reluctantly consented to offer his resignation as pastor of this church, and undertake the evangelistic work that gave evidence of so much promise. The pastoral relation terminated October 15, 1896, the membership having grown to 236."

## REV. M. MCG. SHIELDS INSTALLED AS PASTOR APRIL 25, 1897

"At a congregational meeting held December 13, 1896, Rev. M. McG. Shields was called to the pastorate of the church. The call was accepted and he began his labors March 1, 1897. He was installed pastor April 25 of the same year by a commission of Mecklenburg Presbytery, consisting of Revs. R. Z. Johnston, R. A. Miller and S. W. Newell.

"The plans of his predecessors have, in the main, been followed. Very few changes in the methods of work have been made. The session meets every Sabbath immediately

after the morning service, and usually has some work to do. The ladies' work has been slightly modified. They are now working through committees instead of societies.

"One of the most important acts of the present pastorate was raising the church debt. There was resting upon our new church building a debt of \$7,500. This was the one cloud on our sky. So ominous did it appear that our energies were sometimes partially paralyzed by its very existence. At the close of the ecclesiastical year 1898, it was decided to make one gigantic effort for its payment. The session appointed a committee, consisting of John F. Love, E. N. Lineberger, F. A. Costner and Dr. C. E. Adams, to canvass the congregation, with the result that the membership rose in its might, and, with one effort, paid the entire debt. The walls of the building were then beautifully frescoed, and, the lighting being insufficient, an acetylene gas plant was put in. The building was then complete, and entirely unencumbered, was ready for dedication. This was done September 11, 1898, the sermon being preached by Rev. W. W. Moore, D. D., and the dedicatory prayer being offered by Rev. C. W. Robinson, one of the former pastors of the church.

"The congregation having increased, it was found necessary to enlarge the board of deacons, so on August 21, 1898, the following persons were elected to this office: J. Lee Robinson, J. A. Hunter, Thos. W. Wilson, and J. E. Curry. These were duly ordained and installed in this sacred office.

"This church has always been deeply interested in the cause of Home Missions. If it be true that we are always interested in that for which we sacrifice most, the interest of the church in this cause is easily accounted for. Two of its pastors filled the position of chairman of the Presbyterian's committee of Home Missions. During their period of office, the church gave freely much of each pastor's time that he might look after this important work. The church has also given three pastors to the Home Mission field. Thus she is bound to the Mission work by bonds strengthened by self-denial.

"January 1, 1899, this church, with gratitude, saw her way clear to assume the support of an evangelist for Polk county, this being the only county within the bounds of the Presbytery without a resident Presbyterian minister. The Committee of Home Missions, heartily approving the plan, Rev. Thomas C. Croker was selected for this important and responsible position. He entered upon his labors immediately on his selection, and has demonstrated his fitness for the work by the energy and discretion with which he has plied his labors.

"During the two years of the present pastorate 108 additions have been made to the membership, the total number now being 301. The Westminster League has been re-organized, and has exhibited commendable zeal and liberality, especially toward our Orphans' Home. A Sabbath school has been organized at the chapel at the Gastonia Cotton Mill, whose future is very bright. Our financial record, both as to the contributions of the church, Sabbath schools, and societies, is the best in the church's history. With profound gratitude to God for his presence and blessings, we come to the close of the year. Perfect equipment is nothing, plans, methods and organizations worse than nothing, without the blessing of the Spirit of God. With faith in His promises we begin the duties of another year. We raise our hearts in prayer to Him, saying, 'If thy preence go not with us, carry us not up hence.' "

Thus ends the history of the church as written by Rev. Mr. Shields, published in the early part of the year 1899.



# *Board of Deacons in 1898*



R. T. Harper  
F. A. Costner

John F. Love, Treas.  
T. W. Wilson

E. F. Glenn, Chmn.  
J. Lee Robinson

C. W. Ragan, Sec.  
J. E. Curry

J. A. Hunter  
T. C. Pegram

## CHAPTER II

### *Shields and Anderson Pastorates*

Mr. Shields came to the pastorate of the church from Burlington. He was promised a salary of \$1,000 a year. In July, 1901, after he had been here four years the salary was raised to \$1,300.

Rev. Mr. Shields was pastor of the church when it was dedicated in September, 1898. He was a faithful and diligent pastor and kept in close touch with his people by frequent visits. He encouraged the study of the Catechisms, both the Child's and the Shorter Catechism, and many boys and girls of the congregation of that day learned and recited the Catechism to their Sunday school teachers and to him. It was generally the custom for the smaller children who had learned the Child's Catechism to recite it to their teachers, while those who had learned the Shorter Catechism, recited it to Mr. Shields. Those sessions were usually held in the ladies' parlor. They were very trying on the older pupils, most of whom were scared almost speechless by the prospect of wading through the many "requireds", and "forbiddens" in the Shorter Catechism, and the longer questions involving "justification", "adoption", and "sanctification".

Mr. Shields was one of the most attractive pulpit speakers in the history of the church. One thing that is particularly vivid in the memories of those who sat under his ministry, was the rapid fire manner of his delivery. He spoke fast and the words rolled from his lips with machine-gun-like speed.

He disdained the use of notes in preaching his sermons. In fact, he discarded the use of the regular pulpit and had only a light and slender reading stand which held his Bible. After the reading of the Scripture lesson for the service, he moved from behind the reading stand and faced the con-

gregation without a note or scrap of paper. He had a commanding presence in the pulpit, and his free and easy manner of speaking accentuated it.

And there is one other fact about Mr. Shields well remembered by some. He brooked no misbehavior in the church. If there were any whispering or talking during the sermon, he would stop in the middle of the sermon and wait until the disturbance had ceased. On one occasion, some boys were eating peanuts on one of the back seats. He stopped suddenly in the middle of his sermon, his face flushed and his eyes flashed. In a firm and determined voice he said: "There are some young men eating peanuts back there. That cannot go on while I am in the pulpit."

Mr. Shields left Gastonia October 2, 1904, to take up home mission work in Albemarle Presbytery. One of the sons of Mr. Shields, who spent seven of his boyhood years in Gastonia, the Rev. Harold McQueen Shields, D. D., is now pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, Va. He had served the Gordon Street Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Ga.

Another son, B. Ernest Shields, who was a baby when the family left here, is the author of the Davidson College football fighting song, "O, Davidson"!

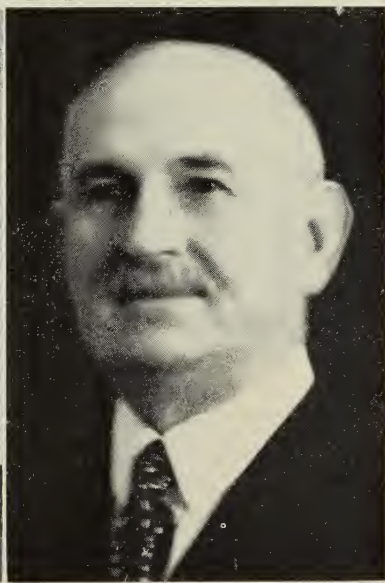
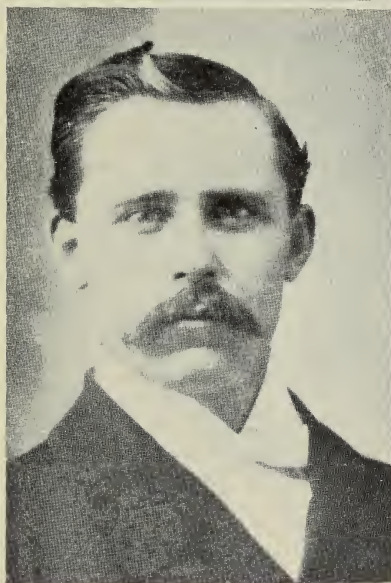
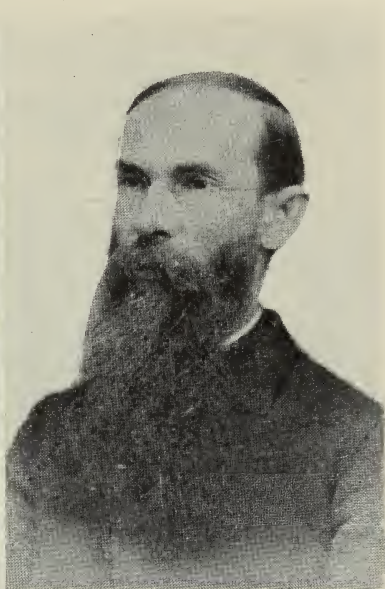
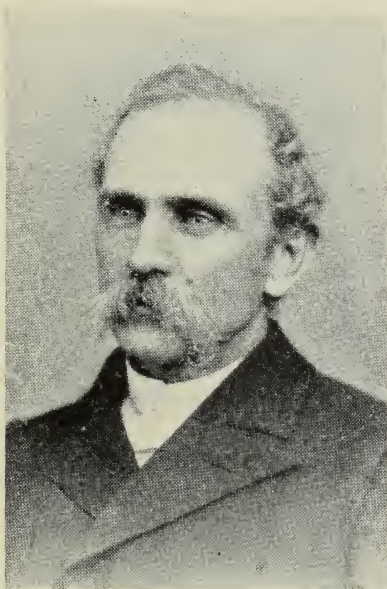
At the time Mr. Shields left Gastonia, the membership of the church had increased to 424. There were 12 elders and nine deacons. The total contributions his last year here were \$4,061.84.

Many of the fathers, mothers and grand-parents of the present day joined the church under Mr. Shields' pastorate. He and his family have a warm place in the hearts and minds of many Gastonia people. Another singular fact that is remembered is that he and the Rev. W. F. Watson, pastor of the First Baptist Church at that time were brothers-in-law, having married sisters, the Misses Shaw, members of a prominent Eastern North Carolina family. One brother was Judge T. J. Shaw and another was Dr. Angus Shaw, well known Presbyterian divine.

From the time Mr. Shields left until the coming of the next pastor, the church was served by supplies. Dr. R. C. Reed, of the faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary,



*Second Four Pastors, 1892-1911*



*Rev. C. W. Robinson*

*Rev. M. McG. Shields*

*Rev. R. P. Smith*

*Rev. R. C. Anderson*

filled the pulpit more than any other man mentioned. He served as moderator of several meetings of the session during the winter of 1904 and spring of 1905.

He was extended a call to the pastorate, but on May 5, 1905, he informed the session that it would be impossible for him to accept the call of this church as he felt it his duty to remain at the seminary. The session then appointed the following pulpit committee: Dr. C. E. Adams, S. A. Robinson, and E. N. Lineberger.

### DR. R. C. ANDERSON PASTOR FROM 1905 TO 1911

On July 17, 1905 at a meeting of the session, Mr. Robinson, reporting for the pulpit committee, "read a letter of recommendation from Dr. McNeill and Rev. Mr. Wharton in regard to Rev. R. C. Anderson." On the next Sunday, July 23, the congregation extended the call to Mr. Anderson, then pastor of the church at Shelbyville, Tenn. He accepted the call and began his work that summer. He was called at a salary of \$1,500 and a manse.

In August, 1906 the salary was increased to \$2,000. During Dr. Anderson's pastorate the church continued to grow and expand. During the latter part of Mr. Shields' pastorate and the beginning of Dr. Anderson's tenure, the present manse was erected. The old manse was sold and moved and is still standing on South Oakland Street, east of the Central graded school. The late Prof. J. P. Reid bought it and had it rolled from South Marietta to South Oakland.

Dr. Anderson was the organizer of the present Men's Bible Class. Under his pastorate the work of the women and of the young people in the church prospered greatly. It was with deep regret that the congregation gave him up to the Mountain Retreat Association, the Southern Presbyterian Assembly grounds, where he did a magnificent work in enlarging this plant for summer conferences and conventions. Dr. Anderson resigned September 10, 1911. The membership of the church had reached 644, there were 14 elders and nine deacons, and the total contributions of the church were \$8,242.78 the year he left.

## CHAPTER III

### *Dr. Henderlite Pastor 28 Years*

Within a month, the congregation set about to call a new pastor. On October 15, 1911 a congregational meeting was held and a call was extended to Dr. H. W. Burwell, of Paducah, Kentucky.

There is no record of any other congregational meeting until May 5, 1912 when a call was made out for the services of Rev. E. E. Gillespie, of Yorkville, S. C. The committee making the recommendation was composed of C. E. Adams, G. W. Ragan, Thos W. Wilson, J. Lee Robinson, W. T. Rankin and A. K. Winget.

On July 14, 1912 another congregational meeting was held with R. A. Miller as moderator, to hear a letter from Dr. C. M. Richards, pastor of the Davidson College Church. Dr. Richards told the committee that he felt it his duty to remain at Davidson.

This was the third pastor who had been invited and turned down the call.

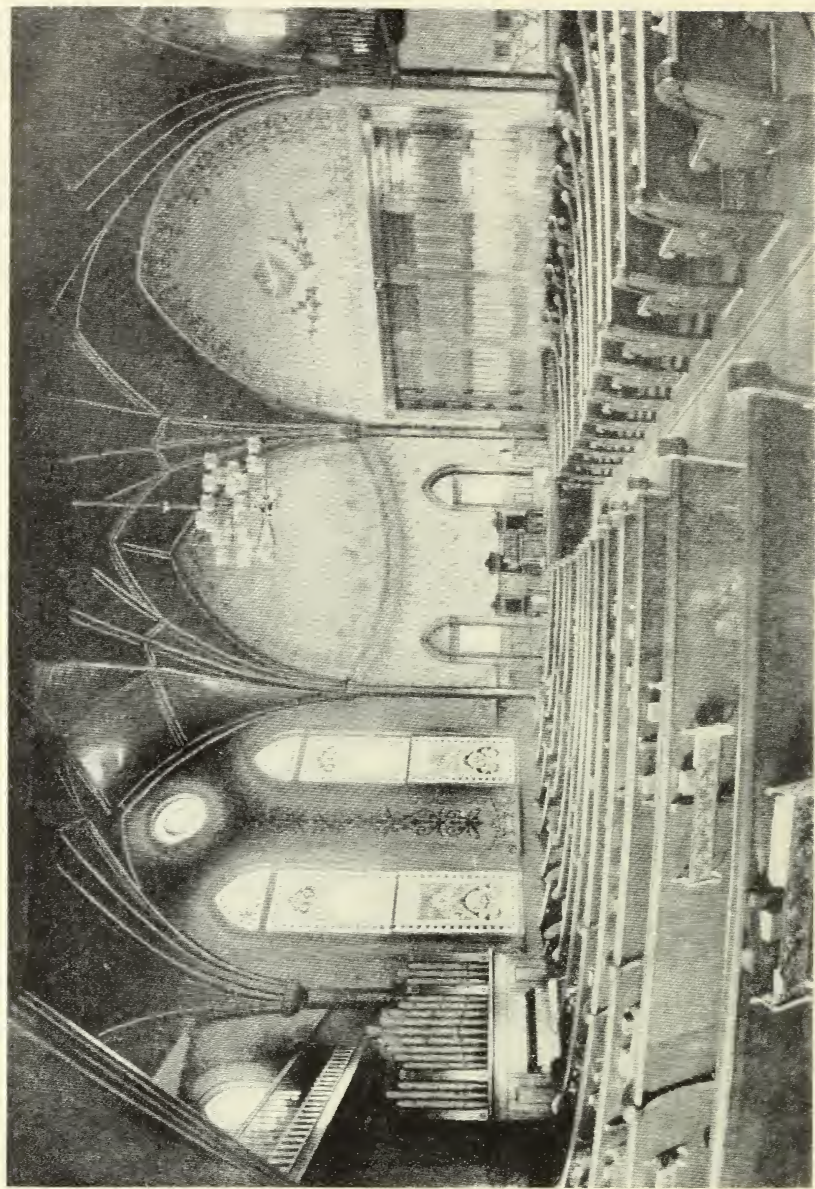
On August 18, 1912 another congregational meeting was held with Rev. W. E. McIlwaine acting as moderator. The purpose of the meeting was to extend a call to Dr. J. H. Lacy, of Winchester, Va. The call carried with it an offer of a salary of \$2,400 a year and manse.

This call was evidently declined, too, for on October 27, 1912, another meeting was held with Rev. W. E. McIlwaine acting as moderator. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the report of another committee. Mr. S. A. Robinson, speaking for the committee, said that the committee unanimously recommended Rev. J. H. Henderlite, of Fredericksburg, Va.,

Two members of the pulpit committee, Messrs. A. C. Jones, and John Frank Jackson, had visited the Presbyterian church in Fredericksburg, had heard him preach



*Auditorium as Seen in 1898*



twice and also conduct the Men's Bible class. They brought back to the church a comprehensive and favorable report.

Mr. Jackson, after 35 years, remembers the two texts from which Dr. Henderlite spoke on that Sunday in the fall of 1912.

The text of his morning service was from Isaiah, 40:31, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint".

The text of the evening service was found in Acts 9:39, "Which Dorcas made".

It will be recalled by many older members of the church that Dr. Henderlite when he first came to Gastonia, wore a short tight fitting coat and a collar which buttoned in the back, much on the order of the sort worn by the brethren of the Episcopal faith.

It is also recalled by some that at the depot the next morning after having preached here twice the preceding Sunday, some of the pulpit committee trying to get some expression from Dr. Henderlite as to whether he would accept the call, if offered, asked him what he could say one way or another. He replied: "There is only one thing I am afraid of, and that is that I am not big enough for the job".

The committee was composed of John Frank Jackson, chairman, F. L. Smyre, P. W. Garland, S. A. Robinson, A. C. Jones and J. O. White. Through its secretary, A. C. Jones, the committee reported that Mr. Henderlite was 40 years old, a native of Smythe county, Virginia, had a family of five, himself, wife and three children, two girls and a boy, the boy being about two years old. He was a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College and had attended both the Columbia and Louisville seminaries, had been ordained in 1897, and had served five years at Accomac, Va., five years at Henderson, N. C., and five years at Fredericksburg, Va.

## DR. J. H. HENDERLITE ACCEPTS CALL TO GASTONIA DECEMBER 1912

Dr. Henderlite accepted the call and came to Gastonia in December. He preached his first sermon on December 4, 1912, from Hebrews 5:29, "And This Word". He was formally installed as pastor, January 12, 1913. His first sermon as pastor on January 19, 1913, was from I Thessalonians, 5:25, "Pray For Us." Thus began a pastorate which lasted nearly 28 years.

It was under Dr. Henderlite's pastorate that the church reached a new high in growth and usefulness. The membership increased in number until it passed 1,000 and stretched on toward the 1,200 mark. The financial strength of the church was also greatly increased. The textile industry of the city and county was expanding profitably and its effect was felt upon the church.

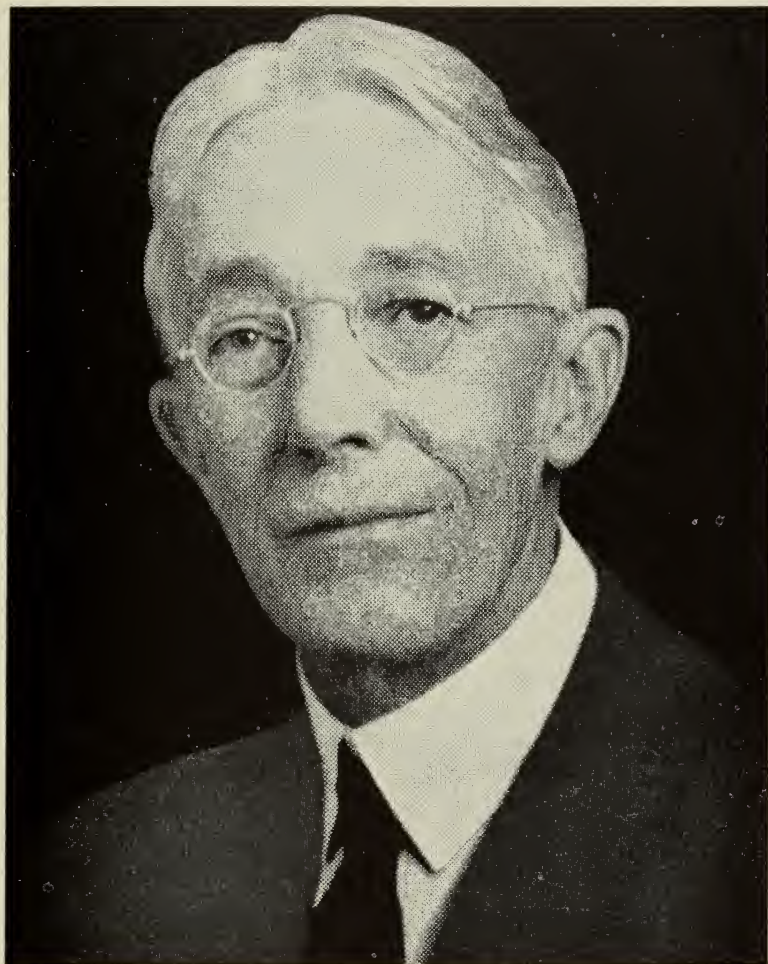
One of the first accomplishments under the new pastorate was the building of what is now called the Sunday school annex, with class rooms opening off the assembly room. Seven years later the present Sunday school building, of two stories and a basement, was erected. The hut, designed to furnish a pastor's study and offices for his secretary, assistant and other members of the staff, was built in the early 1920s. Scouting was instituted during Dr. Henderlite's pastorate and, as the work grew and prospered, a Scout hut was built on adjoining property donated by G. W. Ragan.

Many improvements were made to the plant of the church, including a re-modeling and renovation of the manse, the building of a garage to succeed the barn which had served the former pastor, Dr. Anderson, the modernization of the kitchen in the basement of the Sunday school building, the purchase of two pipe organs for the church and several pianos for use in the Sunday school, the purchase of silver and china for use in the church dining room, and many other improvements.

Armstrong Memorial Church building was erected during Dr. Henderlite's pastorate and the outpost work in other suburban sections was greatly expanded. A full account of



*Dr. J. H. Henderlite*



*Pastor from 1912 to 1940*



this mission work will be found in another chapter of this book, with a history of the several churches and chapels which have grown from this mission work.

In July 1937 another program of improvement was instituted, with \$4,000 spent on the church property, as follows: Painting, repairing, papering and modernizing the manse, \$1,000; painting and repairing the church, \$500; enlarging the scout hut, \$2,500. A. J. Melvin was chairman of the committee. In October, 1938, another program of renovation and improvement was made including the painting of the outside of the church, plastering inside, installing a stoker in the manse, a new carpet in the church, asphalt floor tile in the vestibules, the refinishing of the pulpit and pulpit chairs, and church pews. W. B. Garrison was chairman of the building and grounds committee at this time.

Dr. Henderlite's pastorate in Gastonia was full of service to his congregation, the people of the community and to the Synod and General Assembly. He served on many important boards and committees in Gastonia, one of which was the chairmanship of the Garrison General Hospital. He was a member of the Inter-racial council, which did a lot to promote the fine feeling between the races now prevalent in Gastonia.

He also served on the boards of trustees of Presbyterian Junior College at Maxton, Montreat College, Queens College, and of Union Theological Seminary. He was a member of the Committee of 44, a board of prominent laymen and ministers of the Southern Presbyterian church, which formulated many of the policies and principles of the church. He was a member of the General Assembly's Stewardship committee and of the Christian Education Board. He was moderator of the Synod of North Carolina in 1923 and served as a commissioner to General Assembly many times. Davidson College conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon him in 1918. A native of Virginia, he served on the Virginia Capitol Bi-centennial committee in 1937. He is one of the few Gastonians to be listed in Who's Who in America. He was much in demand all

through this section of the Carolinas as an after dinner speaker, in addition to the many sermons delivered at various churches in special meetings.

One of Dr. and Mrs. Henderlite's daughters, Dr. Rachel Henderlite, is now professor of Religious Education at the Assembly Training School in Richmond, Va. She secured the degree of Ph. D. from the Yale Divinity School a year or so ago. Her thesis, which is to be published soon, was entitled, "The Theological Basis of Horace Bushnell's Christian Nurture." Another daughter, Virginia, is the wife of Rev. Frank S. Jones, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Leaksville. Dr. and Mrs. Henderlite also have one son, James H. Jr., who is connected with the Wallace-Tiernan Chemical Company in Charlotte.

Among the distinguished ministers who held meetings at the church during Dr. Henderlite's pastorate were Dr. J. Ernest Thacker, Dr. James I. Vance, Dr. R. G. McLees, Dr. W. W. Orr, Dr. R. A. Lapsley, Dr. J. M. McConnell, Dr. W. R. Dobyns, Dr. C. R. Nisbet, Gypsy Smith, Dr. W. W. Akers, and Dr. R. A. Forrest.

It was during Dr. Henderlite's pastorate that the work of the church grew to such an extent that there arose the need of assistants. The first of these was Rev. George R. Gillespie, of Versailles, Ky., who came to Gastonia from mission work in Chicago, in the midst of the terrible influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. He threw himself into the work of his new field with a zeal and energy that won for him the respect and admiration of all the people. He was on the go day and night visiting the sick and suffering and ministering to the needs of whole families down with the flu. He endeared himself to the people of the church, and especially so to the people of the South Gastonia community that he became the pastor of the newly organized Armstrong Memorial Church, and assistant to Dr. Henderlite. He often conducted services in the absence of the pastor.

After Mr. Gillespie became pastor of the new church on South Broad Street, other assistants followed from time to time. Many of these young men, then seminary or college students, are now prominent ministers of the Southern

Presbyterian church. Some of them served only during the summer vacation months, others served a year or more. Among these were S. Wilkes Dendy, who was assistant to the pastor and director of young peoples' work from July 22, 1923 to December 31, 1924, A. L. Currie, Frank P. Anderson, O. C. Williamson, T. Archie Freeman, J. Arthur Flanagan and Thomas C. Bryan. Miss Marian Harvey, of Chicago, was one of the first church secretaries, serving almost two years from some time in 1919 to some time in 1921. She came to Gastonia shortly after Mr. Gillespie came. Miss Elizabeth Martin, of Charleston, W. Va., also served for two years from 1921 to 1923. Miss Helen Ragan, now Mrs. J. L. Barnett, of Gastonia, served as secretary for a period of several months during 1923 and 1924. Miss Mary Dimmock Murray, of Greensboro, was secretary in 1925. She later became Mrs. R. S. Arrowood, of Barium Springs. She died several years ago. Miss Rachel Henderlite served several years as secretary during 1930 and 1931.

Miss Mary John Howe, another daughter of the church, was church secretary under Dr. Henderlite for a number of years. She was a leader of the young people of the church and took a prominent part in the young peoples' conferences in Kings Mountain Presbytery and in furthering the work of the young peoples' conferences at Davidson College and at Montreat.

Others who have served as church secretaries were Mrs. Frank Barlow, of Gastonia, who succeeded Miss Howe, Miss Lutie Trent, of Lynchburg, Va., who was here for three months in the early part of 1924. Miss Bess Jackson, of Gastonia, was the next secretary and has been a faithful and loyal member of the church staff for the past several years. She became associated with the church office in the fall of 1941. One of her principal duties is that of editing *The Beacon*, a weekly newspaper of interest to members of the church and their families. Miss Jackson is one of the most capable and efficient secretaries the church has had.

Dr. A. L. Currie is now pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Dr. Freeman is at Tazewell,

Va., Dr. Williamson, formerly at High Point, is now at Cook's Memorial, near Charlotte. J. Arthur Flanagan was pastor at Franklin until his death several years ago.

Rev. S. W. Dendy is now pastor of the church at Dalton, Ga.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Overmyer came to the church in April, 1926, she as church secretary and he, as director of music and assistant pastor. Both were talented people and the music of the church reached new heights under the direction of Mr. Overmyer. He was possessed of a marvellous tenor voice. He, with Roger Grier, Herbert Glenn and Perk Thompson formed a quartet that became famous. He resigned in September, 1930, to enter Union Theological Seminary. He has held pastorates at Bluefield and at Charleston, W. Va. He is now pastor of Bream Memorial Church in Charleston, one of the largest churches in the General Assembly. The Gastonia church is proud of the achievements of Joe Overmyer.

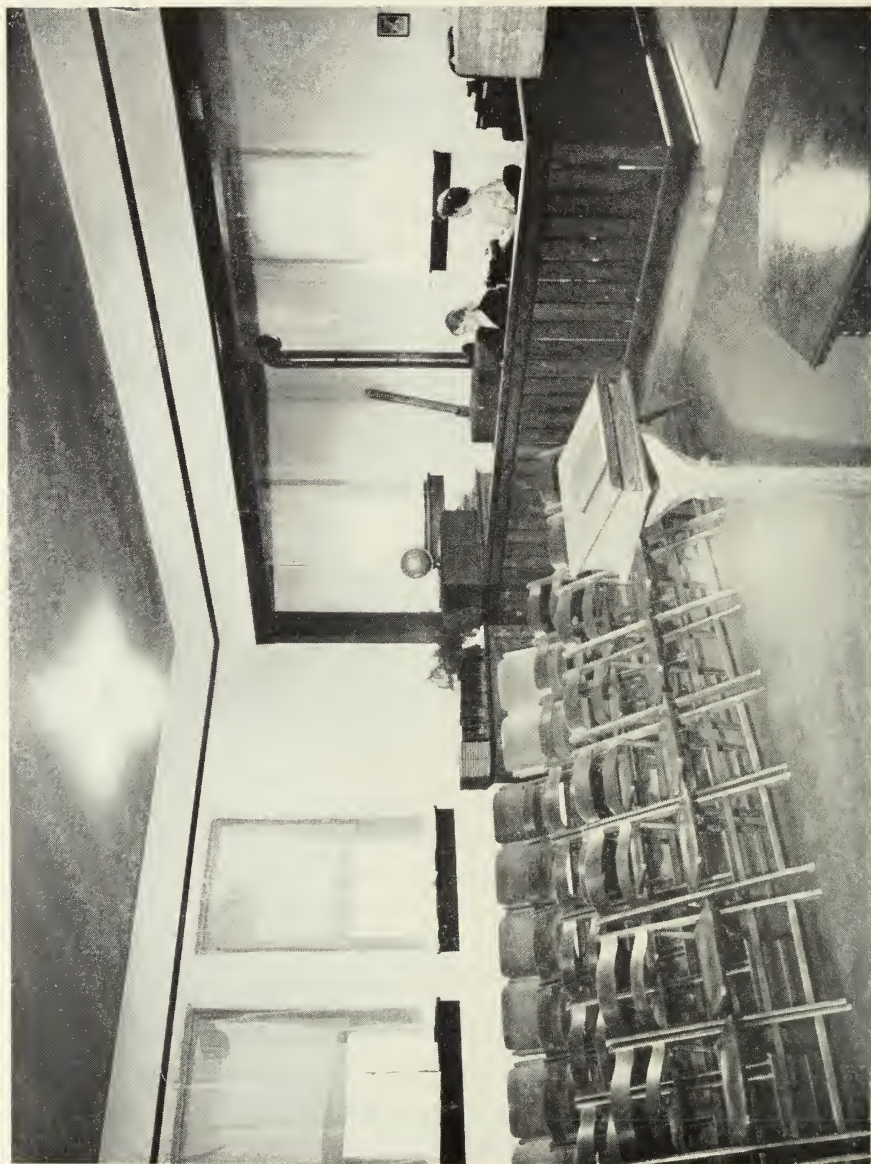
Rev. Thomas C. Bryan served as the next assistant and director of music, from August 3, 1930 to October, 1931. He was the son of the well known beloved "Father Bryan", of Birmingham, Ala., and was a nephew of Mrs. John F. Love, a former member of the congregation. He is now located in Winston-Salem, N. C., pastor of the George W. Lee Memorial Church.

## REV. C. G. McKNIGHT ASSISTANT PASTOR FROM 1931 TO 1937

Rev. C. G. McKnight, of Ohio and Ithaca, N. Y., was the next assistant and music director. He came to Gastonia in September, 1931, and served until March 31, 1937. Mr. McKnight was a graduate of the Westminster Choir school and developed the music of the church to a marked degree while here. He developed several junior and high school choirs. It was while he was here, in September, 1934, that the present Kilgen pipe organ was purchased. Mr. McKnight did a fine work, and upon his resignation, the choir directed a resolution to the session in high praise of his work, and of regret that he was leaving.



*Misses Jackson and Walker at Work*



A high light of Dr. Henderlite's pastorate was his trip to the Holy Land, taken in the summer of 1926. Dr. Henderlite enjoyed the trip greatly and came home much refreshed physically, and strengthened spiritually by his visits to the scenes of the Holy Land made sacred by the presence of Jesus. He was much in demand for several months after his return for lectures on the Holy Land. He brought back with him water from the river Jordan which he used in baptismal services as long as it lasted.

The above event is characteristic of Mr. J. Lee Robinson, treasurer of the church at that time. While the trip of Dr. Henderlite was announced as given by friends in the church, it was largely through the generosity of Mr. Robinson himself that the trip was made possible. As treasurer of the church succeeding John F. Love, Mr. Robinson made the church business of primary importance in his life. He guided the board of deacons, the session and the congregation through many important crises in the history of the church. Both he and Mr. Love were successful bankers and their wise and careful judgment in matters financial were of untold value to the church.

Dr. Henderlite's health began to fail in the late 1930s and he was given leaves of absence from time to time. He spent several months in Florida in an effort to conserve his health. It was at this time that the next assistant, Rev. I. M. Ellis came to the church. He took up his new duties in April, 1938, as assistant pastor, director of religious education and director of the choir.

At the time of Dr. Henderlite's retirement, The Gastonia Gazette said in an editorial: "For more than a quarter of a century, this venerable man has gone in and out among us in Gastonia. He is the dean of preachers in Gaston county. He has served longer at the First Presbyterian Church than any other present pastor has at any other charge in the county. He has been a pastor of the community as well as pastor of the Presbyterian church. He is beloved by all, irrespective of denomination, race or creed. He and his family have lived so long in Gastonia that they have come to be a part of the community and it is good to know that they will continue to live in our midst".

## DR. HENDERLITE RESIGNED IN 1940

Dr. Henderlite's health grew worse and in June, 1940, he offered his resignation which was regretfully accepted by the congregation, and Mr. Ellis then took up the work. He was elected pastor of the church and assumed the duties as such, October 6, 1940. Dr. Henderlite was able to attend church services from time to time, until he became bed-ridden. After several weeks of critical illness, he passed away at his home on South Marietta Street, January 17, 1942. The entire city mourned his passing. He was the Nestor of pastors at the time of his death. He had served the church for nearly 28 years. He was known far and wide in this section of the South for his brilliant eloquence, ready wit and consecrated Christian character. He is buried in Gastonia and Mrs. Henderlite continues to make her home here. The name of the Men's Bible Class was changed to the Henderlite Bible Class after his death.

Dr. Henderlite was one of four brothers who were preachers. A nephew, Dr. Langdon M. Henderlite, is partly supported by this church as a missionary in Brazil. The three brothers of Dr. Henderlite were Rev. Messrs. George, Peter and Robert E. Henderlite.



## CHAPTER IV

### *Pastorate of Rev. Irving M. Ellis*

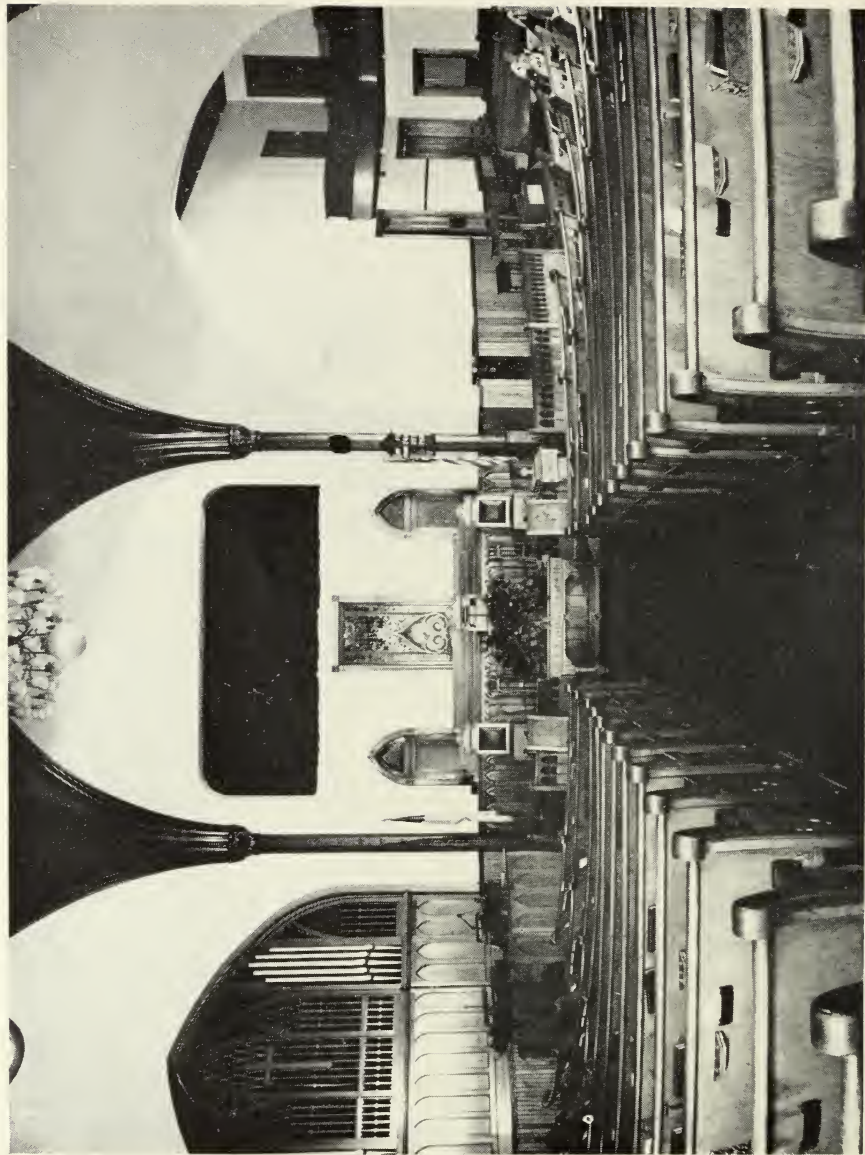
Rev. I. M. Ellis, the present pastor, is a native of Chicago and was educated in the Moody Bible Institute, at Roanoke College, Virginia, and at Columbia and Union Theological Seminaries. He was graduated from the latter in 1925 and came to the First Church from Park Avenue Church in Norfolk, Va. He had appeared in Gastonia in the summer of 1923 while a 'seminary student as one of the members of a quartet which sang for the local church during a meeting. The quartet was composed of Messrs. Ellis, McInnis, Piephoff and Dendy.

Mrs. Ellis is the former Miss Lulawill Brown, of Camilla, Ga. They have four children, Irving M. Jr., Joan, Kay and David.

Under the direction of Mr. Ellis, the music of the church had taken on a new life. Miss Helen Hubbert, of the Westminster Choir School at Princeton came here as director of the choir after Mr. Ellis had been elected pastor. Then followed Miss Martha Jane Enck, who married William E. Loftin, a member of our church. They are now living in Tallahassee, Fla. Miss Emma Binns followed Mrs. Loftin and she married James R. Bercaw, and is now living in Liberty, Mo. After a vacancy of several months, Mr. R. J. Wheeler, a metallurgist with the A. B. Carter Co., took over the direction of the choir and is doing an outstanding work. Mrs. Wheeler has charge of the junior choir.

Miss Katherine McChesney, of Asheville, came to the church as director of religious education during the pastorate of Mr. Ellis, and served two years from 1942 to 1944. She did a fine work among the young people and the various organizations made wonderful progress under her direction. She later became Mrs. H. S. Mackie and is now a resident of Gastonia.

*The Auditorium, From Middle Rear Door*



One of the gifts to the church during Mr. Ellis' pastorate was the baptismal font given by the children of the late Capt. and Mrs. J. Q. Holland, Mesdames M. H. Curry, P. R. Falls, and E. H. Tuttle, of Lenoir, and James W. Holland. It is made of oak and copper and is a handsome addition to the equipment of the church.

Under the youthful aggressiveness of Mr. Ellis, the work of the church has expanded greatly and the outpost work has been increased. Under his direction churches have been built in the Jenkins Heights section, now known as Northside Presbyterian Church, a separate organization, and in the Ozark Mill community. This latter church, also a separate organization, is known as Adams Memorial Church. Histories of both the above are found elsewhere in this book. Outpost work is also being carried on at Piedmont chapel in the northern section of the city. Our church is also doing its part in the N. C. Orthopedic Sunday school.

One of the major accomplishments of this church during the pastorate of Mr. Ellis was the raising of the Henderlite Memorial Fund of \$10,000 with which to endow a senior scholarship at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va. The matter of a suitable and appropriate memorial to Dr. Henderlite, beloved pastor for 28 years, was debated back and forth for several weeks before it was agreed that a fund for educating ministers of the Gospel would come nearest being what the former pastor would wish as a memorial. The money was raised quickly and turned over to the treasurer of the seminary, the proceeds to go to a senior student, preferably one from Kings Mountain Presbytery. The committee in charge of the project was composed as follows: H. Rutter, Chairman, A. C. Jones, S. A. Robinson, H. G. Winget, J. L. Kendrick, Mesdames G. W. Ragan, D. M. Jones, W. F. Michael, and Messrs. John Frank Jackson, Fred Spurrier, A. L. Sudduth, W. B. Garrison and Ralph Falls.

Another outstanding achievement during the present pastorate is the raising of the money for another program of enlargement and modernization of the church.

## INTERIOR OF CHURCH TO BE RE-MODELED

The plan includes changes in the main auditorium that will make for better acoustics, both for the preacher and the choir. The organ and choir are to be moved behind the pulpit and a transept to be built on the right where the organ stood. A similar transept will be constructed on the left side of the pulpit to match it. Additional Sunday School rooms are to be constructed, both on the second and first floors of the present annex. Larger class rooms will be provided for some of the adult classes. The sum of \$35,000 has been raised for the work, which will begin soon.

The post-war planning committee is composed of D. R. LaFar, Jr., chairman, W. P. Moore, E. J. Rankin, Harry Rutter, H. G. Winget, Ed C. Adams, R. A. Dickson, M. R. Adams, W. C. Adams, R. O. Crawford, W. B. Garrison, Ralph Falls, Mrs. G. W. Ragan, Mrs. W. Y. Gardner, Mrs. Mary R. Carpenter, Miss Margaret Tiddy, Fred A. Ratchford and the director of religious education and pastor of the church, members ex officio.

## OUR CLERKS OF THE SESSION

This church has been fortunate in having had as clerks of the session elders who have been unusually diligent and faithful. There is an unbroken succession of records of the meetings of the session from 1885 up to the present, with only a few omissions. This is not true of the congregational meetings.

The first clerk of the session was the late Capt. J. Q. Holland, whose name is signed to the minutes of all meetings of the session from the year 1885. Although the church was organized in 1882, there are no recorded sessional minutes until May 17, 1885. The three members of the session were A. M. Smyre, B. G. Bradley and J. Q. Holland, with Rev. W. E. McIlwaine pastor and moderator. On July 26, 1886, the session ordered a congregational meeting to be held on Saturday, the 14th of August for the purpose of electing two more elders. Think of calling a congregational



meeting on a Saturday in this day and age! The two elders elected, according to the minutes, showing them present at later meetings were, Dr. R. H. Adams and J. R. Shannon.

Capt. Holland served from 1885 to 1893 when he asked to be relieved. Mr. B. G. Bradley was elected clerk, and served from 1893 to 1897. He then resigned and Captain Holland was reappointed. This time he served for 14 years, or from 1897 to 1911, when he resigned on account of failing health.

Mr. J. A. Hunter was named clerk of the session in 1911 and served faithfully and efficiently for 18 years. He died February 19, 1929. Mr. John O. Rankin succeeded him and served for two years, until May, 1931 when Mr. Sam A. Robinson was elected clerk. He served to July 12, 1942 when he asked to be relieved. It was while Mr. Robinson was clerk of the session that the typewriter first came into use in writing up the minutes of the meetings.

B. T. Dickson was elected clerk and J. L. Kendrick assistant upon the resignation of Mr. Robinson. They served from July, 1942, to October, 1946. At that time Robert A. Gordon was named clerk of the session and is carrying out the many duties of this office in a most acceptable manner. Mr. L. J. Shive is assistant clerk.

## OTHER CHURCH OFFICERS

As has been the case with the clerks of the session, likewise with the chairmen of the board of deacons and the treasurers of the church, this congregation has been blessed with men of unusual ability to fill such positions of trust and responsibility.

Up to the year 1924 the records of the deacons' meetings are not available. It is safe to assume that such men as T. W. Wilson, F. A. Costner, G. W. Ragan, F. L. Smyre, J. H. Kennedy, S. A. Robinson and others served as chairmen at one time or another.

As is noted elsewhere in this book, two of the outstanding treasurers of the church were John F. Love and J. Lee Robinson. Mr. Love was treasurer for many years in the early days of the church, including the time when

the present church building was erected in 1895. Mr. Robinson succeeded Mr. Love about 1912, and served as treasurer for the next 10 or 12 years until the pressure of the banking business forced his resignation. He was succeeded by Fred L. Smyre.

Beginning with the year 1924, a complete file of the church bulletins has been kept and from it the roster of the officers of the board of deacons is fairly complete. From 1921 to 1925 J. White Ware was chairman of the board and F. L. Smyre was treasurer. R. C. Patrick followed Mr. Ware and served one year.

Mr. J. Lee Robinson succeeded Mr. Patrick as chairman of the board in 1926 and served until his death in 1931. T. L. Wilson was treasurer for a number of years both under Mr. Robinson and his successor, A. K. Winget. When Mr. Winget moved from Gastonia, Dr. L. N. Patrick succeeded him as chairman.

As the rotary system went into effect, no one man served as chairman longer than two years at the most, and the same was true of the treasurer. H. G. Winget succeeded Dr. Patrick as chairman. Ralph Falls came on as treasurer for a year or two, and was succeeded by R. A. Dickson. H. Price Lineberger was chairman of the board for three years at this time and was succeeded by Ralph Falls, who, in turn, was followed by R. A. Dickson and Caldwell Ragan, present chairman. Following R. A. Dickson as treasurer were Caldwell Ragan, Lacy Faust, Fred L. Smyre, Jr., W. C. Adams, and John M. Akers, the present treasurer.

Among those who have served as secretary of the board of deacons at various times are W. R. Sparrow, the present secretary, John A. Wilkins, James G. Jackson, Fred M. Allen, R. A. Gordon, R. M. Jackson, J. W. Timberlake, Hugh A. Query, Dr. Ralph Ray, R. C. Patrick and J. A. Hunter.

Dean French is the present president of the Men's Fellowship Club which was organized in 1944 with William Sparrow as the first president. A similar organization had existed in the church some twelve or fifteen years ago, but had been discontinued. Others who have served as presidents are R. A. Gordon and Dane S. Rhyne.



The organization meets once a month in the church dining room for a supper meeting, with some prominent guest speaker. There are also musical numbers and entertainment features. The purpose of the club is to promote better fellowship among the men of the church. James R. Rankin is secretary and W. C. Adams treasurer. Clarke Starnes, Phil Jackson, Leonard Curry, R. L. Clemmer, R. A. Dickson and Hoyle Efird have served as secretary or treasurer.

General officers of the church school are Howard Whisnant, superintendent; James Boyce Garland, assistant superintendenteent; Grady McCarter, secretary; James Rankin, treasurer; and Tommie F. Dickson, superintendent of the Piedmont School.

Heads of the several departments are Mrs. R. A. Dickson, nursery; Mrs. Fred L. Smyre, Jr., beginners; Mrs. Mary R. Carpenter, primary; Mrs. L. J. Shive, primary; Mrs. R. W. McCarter, junior; Mrs. R. O. Crawford, pioneer; Robert Hood, senior; J. E. McNair, president young adults; Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Waters, advisors' young married couples class; Mrs. V. G. Grier, superintendent women's department; Fred W. Spurrier, president of Men's Bible class and Mrs. J. E. Brison, superintendent of home department.

Officers of the Woman's auxiliary are Mrs. Von Hollinger, president; Mrs. Vivian Rankin, first vice-president; Mrs. I. M. Ellis, second vice-president; Mrs. Ralph H. Falls, secretary; Mrs. A. M. Spencer, treasurer and Mrs. E. L. Patterson, historian.

Secretaries of the various causes are:

Mrs. Fred W. Spurrier, Assembly's Home Missions; Mrs. C. C. Kimbrell, Foreign Missions; Mrs. Wayne Dilling, Christian Education and Ministerial Relief; Mrs. J. L. Barnett, Religious Education; Miss Bess Jackson, Synod's and Presbytery's Home Missions; Mrs. G. V. Patterson, Spiritual Life; Mrs. Dean A. French, Literature; Mrs. W. B. Garrison, Christian Relations; Mrs. W. T. Rankin, Pastor's Aid; Mrs. J. L. Craig, Orphanage, and Mrs. R. O. Crawford, Synod's Educational Institutions.

Circle chairmen are as follows: Mrs. A. W. Dunn, Mrs. J. W. Timberlake, Mrs. Ed C. Adams, Mrs. W. L. Wetzell, Mrs. L. N. Patrick, Mrs. C. A. Moss, Miss Frances O'Daniel, Mrs. Minnie Abernethy, Mrs. H. S. Mackie, Mrs. Ralph Robinson, Mrs. Wade Williford; Home Circle: Mrs. J. S. Winget and Mrs. J. H. Matthews.

Bible teachers in the church school are Mesdames R. A. Gordon, E. E. Groves, S. J. Hood, S. A. Kindley, D. E. McConnell, J. F. Ormand, E. L. Patterson, Caldwell Ragan, A. L. Sudduth, J. N. Summerell, J. A. Whitfield, and Misses Mary Olive Walker and Lottie Warren.

T. M. Mackorell is scoutmaster of Troop No. 11, Boy Scouts of America and Tommie Rankin is assistant scoutmaster. Clarke Starnes is chairman of the Scout committee. G. W. Knox is Cub master of the Cub pack and W. K. Reid is committee chairman.

There are three active Girl Scout troops in the congregation. Miss Rebecca Falls is leader of the Senior troop with Miss Lin Martin as assistant. Miss Mary Olive Walker is leader of the Intermediate troop with Miss Mary Emma Craig as assistant. Mrs. Arthur M. Spencer, Jr., is the leader of the Brownie troop with Miss Betty McGerrigle as assistant.

## J. E. LINDSAY FAITHFUL SEXTON

Mr. J. E. Lindsay has been the faithful and efficient sexton of the church for the past twelve years. He succeeded the late J. N. Moore, who served twenty years or longer during the pastorate of Dr. Henderlite. Mr. Moore was loyal and faithful in all his services to the church and served it to the last, his death coming as a result of a fall he sustained in line of duty at the church. He is held in honored memory by scores of older members of the church who remember his devotion and faithful labors.

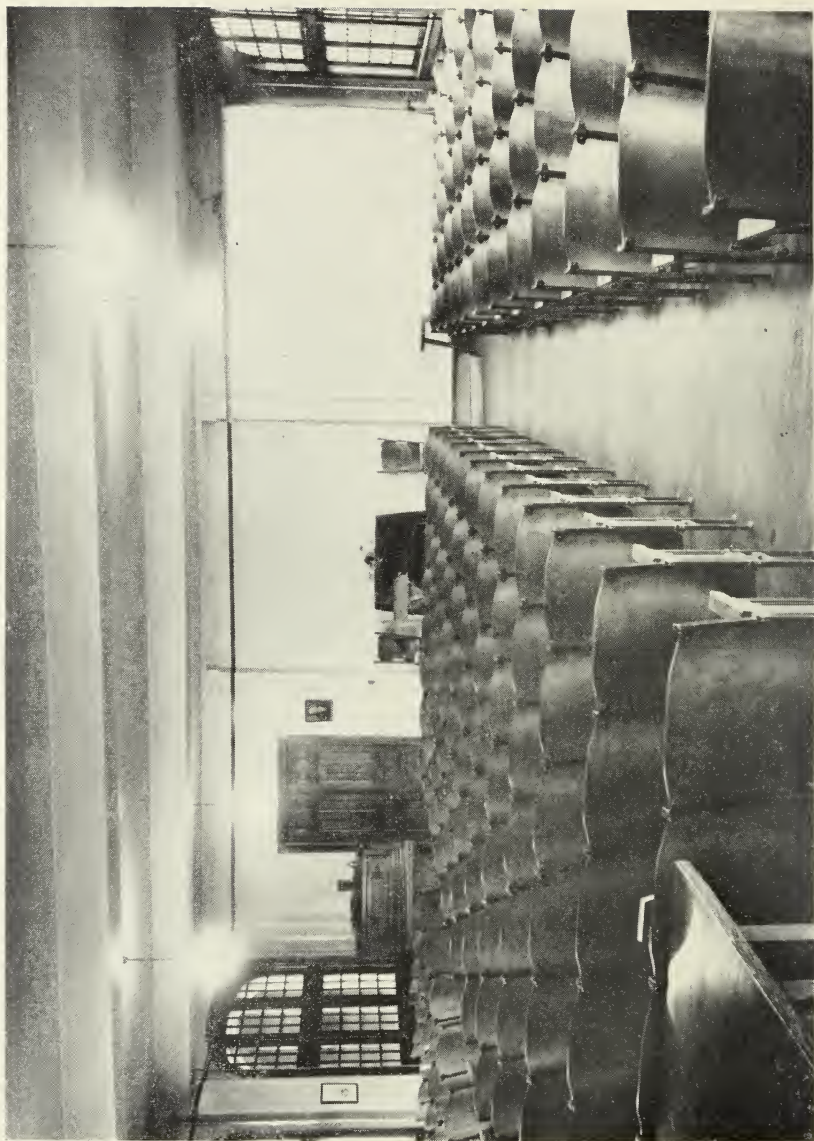
Mr. Lindsay is a true successor to Mr. Moore. He serves the church day in and day out, seven days a week, although he is entitled to one day off each week. He hardly ever takes this rest day, except in watermelon time or during the singing school season. Neither rain nor snow, winter's

cold nor summer's heat stops him from his appointed rounds. In the days of the coal furnace, he was on the job at three or four o'clock on cold winter Sunday mornings getting the church warmed up for services. He performs many duties in his job as sexton, such as janitor, postman, messenger, custodian, mechanic, electrician, fireman, carpenter and jack of all trades.

Never a speck of dust is allowed in the church if he can help it, and, after any repair work has been done involving plaster or ceiling he has to go over the pews and furniture many times before the wood work is clean. Particles of dust and plaster lodge in the overhead and drift down from day to day for weeks and weeks. The carpets, too, have to be treated many times with the cleaner after such jobs in the church.

The church is comfortable both in summer and winter. His services to the church are not covered by the monetary wage he receives. Much of the service he renders is from love of the church and its mission to the people of the community. He is of invaluable aid to the women who prepare meals in the church kitchen for the many suppers and social features given by every department of the church. Mrs. Dane Rhyne, Mrs. Joe Riddle, Mrs. W. F. Michael, Mrs. J. H. Henderlite and many others can attest to his proven worth on many occasions.

*Henderlite Bible Class Room*





## CHAPTER V

### *Four Periods of Church History*

With the above history of the church from its organization in 1882 to the dedication of the church in 1898, and down to the present, it can be seen that the history of the First Presbyterian Church might logically fall into four periods, viz: The first, from its organization in 1882 until 1898, when the new building was completed and up to the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Shields; second, the period including the pastorates of Rev. Messrs. Shields and Anderson, from 1898 to 1912; third, the pastorate of Dr. J. H. Henderlite, from 1913 to 1940, when he retired because of ill health, and fourth, that of the present pastor, Rev. I. M. Ellis, who began his pastorate here in September, 1940, after the resignation of Dr. Henderlite had been accepted by the congregation in June of that year.

If the above arbitrary division of the history of the church is accepted, the first or pioneer period would be that of organization and early strengthening of the stakes. Rev. R. P. Smith, the pastor from 1893 to 1896, might be said to have been the leader who led the struggling young congregation through the mazes of indecision and uncertainty, when it was small in number and in moderate financial circumstances. It was under his inspirational leadership and guidance that the plans for the present church building were formulated and adopted. The church was in process of erection when he resigned to accept the post of home mission superintendent of Asheville Presbytery to work among the mountaineers. He spent the rest of his long and useful life in this work.

### SHIELDS AND ANDERSON PASTORATES

The second division or period of the work of the church would include the pastorates of Rev. Messrs. Shields and Anderson when the membership had grown both in num-

bers and financial strength. It was during the pastorates of these two men that the textile industry had its inception in Gastonia and the young congregation felt the urge to expand and to extend its stakes. The population of the city was growing fast both by birth and by importations from the surrounding territory. The city limits were expanded, and one of the daughters of the church, West Avenue, was organized during the pastorate of Dr. Anderson. The work in South Gastonia, from which later grew the Armstrong Memorial Church, also had its beginnings in Dr. Anderson's pastorate. A full account of both these mission points will be found elsewhere in this volume.

### DR. J. H. HENDERLITE'S PASTORATE

The third period of the church's history, that from 1913 to 1940, embracing the pastorate of Dr. Henderlite, might be said to have been the period when the church reached its fullest maturity, if the two earlier periods could have been likened unto the infancy and youth of a growing organization. It was under the pastorate of Dr. Henderlite that the church grew in membership and financial strength. Under his ministry the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia began to take a leading part in the Synod of North Carolina and in the General Assembly. Gifts to benevolences and to many causes were increased. During the pastorate of Dr. Henderlite many important changes and improvements were made in the physical plant of the church. Armstrong Memorial Church was built. The present annex, formerly called the Sunday school department was built in 1914. In 1921 the present educational or Sunday school building was erected, as were the church hut and Boy Scout building. The congregation took on the work of supporting missionaries in China, Africa and Brazil. It contributed materially to Oglethorpe University and Davidson College, having chairs endowed in both institutions. The chair at Davidson is known as the Woodrow Wilson chair of history. The sum of \$50,000 was contributed to this endowment.

The number of elders and deacons was greatly increased. The men of the church were organized and the work of



the women's auxiliary was greatly expanded. Dr. Henderlite, as teacher of the Men's Bible class, later named in his honor, the Henderlite class, endeared himself to the men of the church as few pastors ever did. Under his ministry, two members of this church became candidates for the ministry and later ministers of the gospel, Rev. Messrs. Frank M. Kincaid and Frank McLaughen. The church had two new pipe organs during his ministry.

It was also during his ministry that the work of the church grew to such an extent that a church secretary, and later a director of religious education became necessary, as well as an assistant pastor. The rotary system of electing deacons was adopted in the year 1934 and has been in effect ever since. The physical plant of the church was vastly improved and its value greatly enhanced during Dr. Henderlite's ministry. Extensive improvements and additions were made to the church auditorium and to the manse during his pastorate.

It was during the Henderlite pastorate that the church membership reached 1,200 and the financial budget of the church reached up well into five figures, toward the \$40,000 and \$50,000 mark.

#### FOURTH IS THAT OF REV. I. M. ELLIS

The fourth natural period or division into which the ministry of the church falls is that beginning with the pastorate of the present minister, Rev. I. M. Ellis, who succeeded Dr. Henderlite in 1940. Mr. Ellis had come to Gastonia April 1, 1938, from the Park Avenue Church in Norfolk, Va., as assistant to the pastor and director of music. He filled these positions in a competent and efficient manner and to the satisfaction of all.

The period of his pastorate might be compared to that of a person reaching the full fruition of maturity. Under his pastorate the expansion of the church has been rapid, in spiritual growth and zeal. The missionary efforts of the church have resulted in more successful outpost work and the establishment of the Adams Memorial and Northside

churches. Contributions of the church to benevolences, and especially to foreign missions, have been greatly increased under the inspiring leadership of Mr. Ellis.

The benevolent gifts to the church increased from \$11,000 in 1940 to \$44,300 in 1946. For 1947, the contributions to benevolences were well over \$42,000.

There has been a tremendous interest in world missions. The church gave in 1946 almost as much to missions as was given to all benevolent causes in 1940. The congregation has twice given cars to Rev. Langdon M. Henderlite, our missionary to Brazil. The first was in 1942. He wore that one out in the cause of Christ in South America, and in 1947 the church raised the money with which a second new car was bought and sent to Mr. Henderlite. Several members of the church make large annual contributions to the cause of foreign missions, both in China, Brazil, and in Africa.

Other missionaries supported by our church are Rev. and Mrs. J. A. McAlpine, of Kobe, Japan, and Miss Grace Farr, of China. Rev. and Mrs. McAlpine are second generation missionaries, both children of missionaries. In former years this church has had a part in the support of the following missionaries: Miss Mary B. Woods, of Nanking, China, Dr. and Mrs. J. W. Bradley, Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Junkin, Mr. H. W. McCutchen, Miss Maida McCutchen, Miss M. M. Johnson, Rev. and Mr. B. C. Patterson, Rev. and Mrs. M. A. Hopkins, Miss Charlotte Dunlap, R. N., and Dr. and Mrs. Charles H. Voss.

The total contributions to all causes have reached a new high and the membership of the church is now around 1,300. Additions to the church, both by profession of faith and by letter, have been steady. Newcomers to the city are not long here before they are reached by Mr. Ellis and their letters received. He has been also unusually active in reclaiming many people to the church whose membership has grown inactive.

The work of the young people of the church, under the direction of Miss Mary Olive Walker, of Forest City, has taken on new life. The young peoples' organizations are among the most vital and enthusiastic parts of the church.

Miss Walker is a graduate of Flora McDonald College, and served two years as director of religious education under Dr. R. C. Long at Greenwood, S. C., before coming to Gastonia. She has a fine influence over the young people, is popular both with them and others of the congregation. Under her direction the work of the Girl Scouts has been materially enlarged and expanded, and we now have three troops of Scouts, Brownies, Intermediates and Seniors.

Under the direction of R. J. Wheeler, the choir is the best that has ever served in this church and the music is of the highest order. Mr. Wheeler for a long time served without pay. Mrs. W. Ralph Armstrong is the capable and efficient organist.

**Table Showing Growth Of The Church Since Its Organization**

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>MEMBERSHIP</u> | <u>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1883        | 33                | \$ 1,505                   |
| 1884        | 54                | 1,627                      |
| 1885        | 59                | 868                        |
| 1886        | 100               | 1,018                      |
| 1887        | 117               | 771                        |
| 1888        | 121               | 1,528                      |
| 1889        | 126               | 1,445                      |
| 1890        | 141               | 1,229                      |
| 1891        | 170               | 3,175                      |
| 1892        | 168               | 2,078                      |
| 1893        | 205               | 2,139                      |
| 1894        | 231               | 3,016                      |
| 1895        | 222               | 2,283                      |
| 1896        | 224               | 9,807                      |
| 1897        | 239               | 2,001                      |
| 1898        | 277               | 2,797                      |
| 1899        | 301               | 11,667                     |
| 1901        | 352               | 3,081                      |
| 1902        | 372               | 3,849                      |
| 1905        | 424               | 4,061                      |
| 1910        | 635               | 8,160                      |
| 1915        | 647               | 8,976                      |
| 1917        | 735               | 12,587                     |
| 1919        | 817               | 14,568                     |
| 1920        | 1,008             | 38,354                     |
| 1921        | 800               | 55,076                     |
| 1924        | 958               | 61,368                     |
| 1935        | 1,019             | 39,289                     |
| 1932        | 972               | 29,636                     |
| 1930        | 985               | 41,176                     |
| 1929        | 980               | 47,867                     |
| 1927        | 975               | 50,649                     |
| 1926        | 950               | 59,321                     |
| 1938        | 1,141             | 28,470                     |
| 1939        | 1,164             | 30,444                     |
| 1940        | 1,193             | 27,497                     |
| 1941        | 1,100             | 30,088                     |
| 1943        | 1,210             | 50,316                     |
| 1945        | 1,291             | 66,818                     |
| 1946        | 1,272             | 68,853                     |
| 1947        | 1,378             | \$102,087                  |

## CHAPTER VI

### *Women's Organizations*

When the Presbyterian church of Gastonia was organized in 1882, the women soon formed an organization, known as the Ladies' Aid Society. It was organized in 1884 with Mrs. A. M. Smyre as the first president. The contributions of this society were devoted to different causes, "wherever the greatest need seemed to be."

Five years later the Women's work became known as the Ladies' Home and Foreign Missionary Society, with Mrs. R. C. G. Love as president. The funds collected by this organization were expended in the interest of both Home and Foreign Missions. About this time a Men's Foreign Missionary society was organized also and with the aid of the ladies, a missionary was supported.

In 1891 a children's missionary society was organized, with Miss Lizzie Adams, president, and from this grew the organizations of young peoples' work in its various phases today.

In 1896 the women's work was organized into committees, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, and Orphanage, and remained so until the organization of the Woman's Missionary Society, which became a charter member of Kings Mountain Presbyterial in 1906, and adopted the circle plan according to the recommendation of Mrs. Winnsborough in 1920.

In 1916 the annual offerings amounted to \$500. In 1930 the annual contributions amounted to \$3,747. The first birthday offering was in 1922 and amounted to \$70.73. It was also in 1916 that the Assembly's plan was adopted, and, for the first time in the history of this organization a systematic budget went into effect.

It will be of interest to recall the names of some of the officers of the Home and Foreign Missionary Society. As



*Beginners Class Room*



noted, Mrs. R. C. G. Love was the first president. The next president was Mrs. W. E. McIlwaine. Mrs. John F. Love was secretary and Miss Lizzie Adams, treasurer.

The next year the officers were Mrs. R. N. Wilson, president, Miss Bessie Duff, secretary and Miss Lizzie Adams, treasurer. The next officers were Mrs. Alexander, president, Mrs. A. C. Williamson, vice-president and Miss Bessie Duff, secretary.

In 1920 when the organization became an auxiliary, Mrs. S. A. Kindley, who had become president in 1919 was still in office. Upon her fell the task of re-organization and of starting the circles. She did a fine job in getting the new organization off to a good start. There were 12 circles which met monthly.

The next president was Mrs. G. W. Ragan, and during her administration, the new kitchen was equipped with linen, china and silver, cooking utensils, etc. A bed was given to the N. C. Orthopedic Hospital and linen for its upkeep. A room was furnished at Barium Springs.

Mrs. W. Y. Warren was the next president and she went before the ministers of the town asking their assistance in getting the Bible taught in the schools of the city.

Mrs. W. G. Rhyne, then Miss Mary Ragan, was the next president and with many local causes demanding attention, the auxiliary sent a contribution to Assembly Inn and helped furnish a room at Lees-McRae. It was in the fall of 1926 that the auxiliary served 200 Methodists conference delegates on four successive evenings.

In 1927 Mrs. P. R. Falls served one year as president. The shrubbery for the church grounds was paid for, and all but \$50 of the one thousand dollars promised for the hut was paid. For the next two years, 1928-29, Mrs. Norman Morrow was president. More shrubbery was bought and paid for and a donation made to the Bible department of Queens College. Mrs. Harry Rutter served the next two years. She was the promoter of the first inter-denominational meeting for the World Day of Prayer. The auxiliary contributed to the Civitan Nutritional Camp at Linwood College.

Mrs. J. L. Kendrick was president in 1932-33 and Gastonia was hostess to the Presbyterial and the work kept moving along in spite of a severe depression.

Mrs. C. I. Loftin served for the next two years as president. During her term a commissary was established in the hut for relief work and penny collections were started.

Mrs. W. F. Michael became the 10th president and served during 1936-37. New communion linen was bought and hemstitched. New blinds and shades were bought for the manse. Help was given Miss Ola Moton in her missionary work in the city. It was in 1937 that the church celebrated the 25th anniversary of Dr. Henderlite's pastorate. Mrs. L. N. Patrick came into office in 1938 and it was during this year that the auxiliary pledged nearly \$800 on a new church carpet. The amount was paid in full in less than two years.

Mrs. S. E. Morrison was the next president and again Gastonia was hostess to the Presbyterial. Mrs. Morrison started the inter-denominational drive for Bible teaching in the city schools. Such a course is now being taught.

During Mrs. Morrison's term of office, the Auxiliary had the honor of a visit from Mrs. Frank Price, one of the oldest and best beloved missionaries, from the China field.

Much charity work was done and a little brother and sister were placed in the Barium Springs Orphanage.

Mrs. Caldwell Ragan was president for the next two years, from 1942 through 1944. During her term of office, the Auxiliary sponsored a negro woman's conference at one of the local negro churches. Miss Mary Grier Leslie was secured as the first teacher of Bible in the city schools. This work had been consummated by a committee composed of Mesdames S. E. Morrison, chairman, G. W. Ragan, Harry Rutter and Robert A. Gordon.

There was much social service work done under the leadership of Mesdames Quay Williford and W. T. Rankin, Jr.

Mrs. Vivian Rankin was president in 1944-45. Much of the work of the Auxiliary centered around those in the service of their country. Clothing and linen were given to girls at Montreat who had lost their belongings in a fire.

Some \$200 was given to the Henderlite scholarship fund at Union Seminary. For the first time, life memberships in the Auxiliary were given, to Mrs. J. H. Henderlite and to Mrs. C. I. Loftin.

Mrs. Von Hollinger was the next president. Donations to some of the causes have been the highest on record. Among the achievements of her term were donations of \$106 to Adams Memorial Church and \$100 for the Lucy Steele Memorial at Peace College.

Mrs. Hollinger was a capable and efficient leader. She had a firm grip on the affairs of the women's organizations in the General Assembly, and kept the women of the church thoroughly informed on all matters of interest to the kingdom. She was a hard worker and all the meetings showed the effects of time and thought bestowed upon their preparation.

Delving into the old records and minutes of the original women's organizations of this church one finds many incidents and facts that are of peculiar interest now. There is a vast difference in the tempo of life then and now.

In December 1907 it was voted to send quilt scraps to the Misses Bell for a quilt to be paid for by the missionary society and sent to the orphanage. At the next meeting the thread and lining for the quilt were bought. All through these earlier minutes and records, there are accounts of quiltings at the homes of the various members and some were held in the Sunday school room. Mrs. W. Meek Adams in August of that year offered two quilts for Barium Springs. Mrs. R. C. Warren and Mrs. Rufus M. Johnston were appointed to buy the lining. In September four quilts were sent to Barium Springs. A box of Christmas goodies was sent to Barium in December.

In March, 1908, when Mrs. D. E. McConnell was secretary, requests for help were received from Appalachicola, Fla., and from Plumtree, N. C.

Many of the meetings were enlivened by readings and special musical selections. Mesdames John F. Love, W. T. Rankin, S. B. Barnwell and Hope Brison formed one quartet that was heard many times. In November, 1908, Mesdames



J. E. Lindsay, J. B. Boyd and John Bryan gave quilts with the linings furnished by Mrs. J. B. Beacham, Mrs. Curry and Mrs. J. P. Glenn. Friday was set apart as the day to quilt them in the Sunday school room.

There is a big break in the minutes from the year 1908 for the next six or eight years.

In August, 1915, it was announced that 150 empty fruit jars were being sent from Barium Springs, and that they were stored in the Gastonia Plumbing Store opposite the city hall. The city hall then stood where the Western Union telegraph office now stands on South street. In November, it was gleefully announced at a meeting of the society that instead of 150 jars, they had sent back to Barium 185 jars full of canned fruit, and also that the sum of five dollars had been sent to Barium to buy celery for the Thanksgiving dinner for the children. Miss Mildred Lineberger was secretary and Mrs. R. M. Reid, president.

In April, 1917, Mrs. D. M. Jones was secretary and one meeting enjoyed a solo by Rev. A. A. McLean. It was also voted to send two boys to Westminster School, a Presbyterian preparatory school in Rutherford county. Dr. Mary Martin Sloop, of Crossnore, asked for old clothes.

## BOUGHT KITCHEN EQUIPMENT WITH OCTAGON SOAP WRAPPERS

In December, 1920, after the organization had become the auxiliary, it was moved that the ladies save Octagon soap wrappers with which to buy silver for the new kitchen. At the March 1921 meeting, it was ordered that all soap wrappers be turned over to Mrs. L. N. Glenn, and also suggested that various members might give of their old forks, spoons, etc., for the kitchen.

At the May meeting Mrs. Glenn made a report of the silver purchased with soap wrappers under the direction of Mrs. S. A. Kindley. At the June 1921 meeting, Mrs. G. W. Ragan, president, gave a list of additional things needed for the kitchen and each circle was asked to hem two table-



cloths. She announced that the silver would be delivered the last of July and urged a cash payment in order to get the discount.

At the July 1921 meeting, Mrs. Ragan announced that the \$1.50 per member for the china was not compulsory. She said that the china had been bought at a very moderate cost, \$360, twenty-one dozen of seven different articles, a total of 1,764 pieces. Mr. Todd had bleached the table-cloths free of charge. The session asked the auxiliary to take charge of the kitchen and dining room, and rules as to the use and care of the equipment were issued. In November, 1921, the minutes stated that 85 cakes, two boxes of fruit and two boxes of roast beef had been sent to Barium Springs.

In January, 1922, the yearly report of the Auxiliary showed that the "silver, china, kitchen utensils, etc., had been paid for by voluntary subscriptions". The silver had been secured with soap wrappers. John C. Rankin, of Spencer Mountain, donated 28 table cloths.

That month a big reception was held in the church to which were invited all the women of the church, all the Presbyterian teachers in the schools, minister's wives, and all officers of women's work in the other uptown churches.

It was announced at one meeting in the spring of 1922 that "Helen Lawton coffee is being sold at the Star Grocery in three-pound cans for \$1.25, and that a tea spoon was given with each three-pound can." It was suggested that all buy this coffee and donate the spoon to the church. The reminder was repeated at the next meeting.

In November, 1923, Mrs. P. R. Falls suggested that "we help the Baptist women with dinner and supper during their convention". In January, 1924, Mrs. Henderlite asked that we "use more Helen Lawton coffee so that we could use the premiums in the kitchen."

Rev. G. R. Gillespie asked the women to donate food for the booth of the Armstrong Memorial women at the county fair. Dr. Anderson asked for help on the work of building the Assembly Inn at Montreat. He said that a laborer and his material were costing \$50 a week! Compare that with present-day costs.

At the February, 1927 meeting, Mrs. V. G. Grier, secretary, it was announced to the auxiliary that "an urn in which to make coffee for the church suppers will be given by Mr. Baber if the ladies of the auxiliary will agree to use Lord Calvert coffee to the amount of 325 pounds". Save your wrappers on this brand of coffee, the members were urged at the next meeting.

In March, 1929, it was ordered that baskets and jardineres for the church be bought with any surplus that might be in the treasury. It was reported in August of that year that "moths were ruining the furniture in the ladies parlor." Mrs. W. Y. Warren was appointed to do something about it. It is supposed that she did, for there is no other reference to it. In September there was reported a surplus of \$172 in the kitchen fund. It was voted that shrubbery be bought and set out around the manse. In July, 1930 when Mrs. Rutter was president and Mrs R. O. Crawford, secretary, it was voted to send contributions to the Civitan Nutritional Camp that was being opened at Linwood College.

From the above quaint and sometimes amusing incidents, we see the spirit of the women of the church in those earlier days when money was not so plentiful as it is now, and when the piecing of a quilt and the "quilting" of it were regarded as a worthy achievement. It was not beneath the dignity of the women of that day to save soap wrappers and coffee coupons with which they secured dining room silver and kitchen utensils.

This spirit of frugality and thrift in the early days of the church helped lay the foundation for the efficient organization of the present auxiliary. Those pioneering members of the old Ladies Aid and Missionary societies which preceded our present women's organizations deserve the highest praise from the present generation.

In October, 1905, under the leadership of Mrs. R. C. Anderson, a group of the younger women of the church formed an organization known as the "Daughters of the King". The aim of this society was two fold: "To develop the spiritual life of the members through devotional exercises and to engage in definite mission work."

The charter members were Mrs. Anderson, Emma Page, Laura Page, Minnie Costner, Cora Costner, Mamie Love, Nell Smyre, Janie Jackson, Annie Plonk, Mary Ragan, Mildred Lineberger, May Stewart and Mamie Cabaniss. The first officers were Mrs. R. C. Anderson, president; Nell Smyre, vice-president; Mamie Cabaniss, secretary and Mamie Love, treasurer. These women were most effectively active as a group for five or six years.

Other young peoples' organizations were the Band of Hope and the Willing Workers.

The following brief outline of the history of the women of the church gives in thumb-nail form the essential facts and names of the officers from the earlier days down to the present:

It is recorded that in October, 1905, "with the approval of the Session and at the request of the pastor" the Ladies of the Foreign Mission Committee and the Orphanage Committee united in one Society, known as the Ladies Missionary Society. The first officers of this organization were:

President, Mrs. R. M. Reid; Vice President, Mrs. R. M. Johnston; Secretary, Mrs. J. A. Page; Treasurer, Mrs. P. R. Falls.

There were 58 members on roll. Money was raised by voluntary contributions at each meeting. At the first regular meeting in November, 1905, the donation amounted to \$12.00 and this was given to the Barium Springs Orphanage.

### MRS. D. R. LaFAR, PRESIDENT

1906-1907

In 1906 the Society became a charter member of "The Union", which is now Kings Mountain Presbyterial. Mrs. LaFar was the first President of "the Union". Mrs. Kindley, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Torrence, Treasurer.

|         |                     |           |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1908    | Mrs. T. C. Pegram   | President |
| 1908-10 | Mrs. R. C. Warren   | President |
| 1911    | Mrs. Frost Torrence | President |
| 1912    | Mrs. T. W. Wilson   | President |
| 1913    | Mrs. T. W. Wilson   | President |

|         |  |           |
|---------|--|-----------|
| 1914-15 | Mrs. D. R. LaFar   | President |
| 1916-17 | Mrs. R. M. Reid  | President |
| 1918    | Mrs. J. F. Thomson was elected president, but resigned soon after and Mrs. D. E. McConnell was made president for that year. |           |
| 1919-20 | Mrs. S. A. Kindley   | President |

In 1920 the Society adopted the circle plan and became a Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

|         |                       |           |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1921-22 | Mrs. G. W. Ragan      | President |
| 1923-24 | Mrs. W. Y. Warren     | President |
| 1925-26 | Mrs. W. G. Rhyne      | President |
| 1927    | Mrs. P. R. Falls      | President |
| 1928-29 | Mrs. Norman Morrow    | President |
| 1930-31 | Mrs. Harry Rutter     | President |
| 1932-33 | Mrs. J. L. Kendrick   | President |
| 1934-35 | Mrs. C. I. Loftin     | President |
| 1936-37 | Mrs. W. F. Michael    | President |
| 1938-39 | Mrs. L. N. Patrick    | President |
| 1940-41 | Mrs. S. E. Morrison   | President |
| 1942-43 | Mrs. Caldwell Ragan   | President |
| 1944-45 | Mrs. Vivian Rankin    | President |
| 1946-47 | Mrs. Von W. Hollinger | President |

In 1920 there were about 115 members and the money made and the contributions collected amounted to around \$2,900.00. It was about this time that the women were beginning to equip their kitchen and to serve the several organizations of the church and provide a helpful means of fellowship.

In the last part of 1947 the membership was around 460 and the budget set up for the year was \$3,549.00.

Gastonia women have been honored by offices in both the Presbyterial and Synodical. Mrs. D. R. LaFar, Sr. was the first president of Kings Mountain Presbyterial and is now honorary president for life. The Presbyterial was organized in the First Church.

Other members of our congregation who have served as president of Kings Mountain Presbyterial are Mesdames George V. Patterson and S. A. Robinson and Mrs. W. G. Rhyne.

Mrs. S. A. Robinson was recording secretary of the North Carolina Synodical from 1918 to 1921. Mrs. George V. Patterson was president of the Synodical from 1928 to 1932 and is now a life member. She was chairman of the Woman's Advisory Committee from 1929 to 1931.

Others who have been honored in the Synodical were Mrs. C. I. Loftin, who was secretary of the Synodical Orphanage work, and Mrs. S. A. Kindley, who was secretary of the Spiritual Life Committee.



## *The Senior Choir*



Front row, left to right: Mrs. W. Y. Warren, Mrs. R. J. Wheeler, Miss Mary Olive Walker, Miss Hattie Stowe, Mrs. J. F. Ormund, Mrs. C. E. Roberts, Jr., Second row: C. E. Roberts, Jr., Mrs. W. G. Anderson, Mrs. E. N. Dozier, Miss Pearl Wilson, Mrs. Louie Lattimore, Mrs. R. H. Philhower, pianist, Third row: P. G. Hill, Mrs. Von W. Hollinger, Miss Jean Wheeler, Miss Annette McCarter, Mrs. W. R. Armstrong, organist, Fourth row: George Cathey, Von W. Hollinger, R. O. Crawford, Jr., Robert Hood, R. J. Wheeler, Director.

## CHAPTER VII

### *Music and Organists*

The music in the First Presbyterian Church has always been of primary importance. Even in the earliest days in the little church across the railroad, there were talented musicians. Mrs. C. E. Adams was one of the first organists. Her name is mentioned in old church records. She was also a talented singer.

Other organists were Miss Stella Holland, later Mrs. S. N. Boyce, now deceased, Miss Stella Glenn, later Mrs. McElhanon, and Miss Dora Beal, later Mrs. S. B. Barnwell, also dead, and Miss Alda Smyre, now Mrs. J. Lee Robinson. There were probably many others, for the business of playing the organ was purely voluntary. No salary was paid until the year 1906. The instrument used in the old church was one of the old fashioned reed organs, now not often seen outside collectors' museums, or old homes.

Soon after the present church building was occupied in 1896, a pipe organ was purchased. It is noted in the account of the dedicatory services held September 11, 1898, that Miss Alda Smyre was the organist at that time, and that an anthem, "Come Unto Me", was rendered under her direction. She resigned in November, 1898, and Mrs. R. M. Reid, formerly Miss Lela Shuford, became the next organist, as will be seen from the Shields history, published in early 1899, some of whose pictures are reproduced in this volume. James A. Page was assistant. This pipe organ was pumped by hand, usually by the sexton, and it is recorded that on one or two occasions, he had to be roused from a nap at the conclusion of the sermon to start the organ going. This organ stood under the balcony to the left just as one entered the church from the Marietta street side. This was a Moller organ and gave perfect service.

So good was it, in fact, that it is still in use in Gastonia, a fact not generally known. It was purchased by the congre-

gation of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in 1914 and is still being used at every service by this church. Miss Lewis Frye plays it every Sunday. It is no longer pumped by hand, having been electrified in recent years. It still has a very sweet tone. Some members of our church occasionally visit the Episcopal Church to hear it, the first pipe organ ever used in the Presbyterian Church.

Miss Emma Page succeeded Mrs. Reid as organist and served several years from 1903 to 1906. At this time F. A. Costner was "director of music". The minutes do not say whether or not he directed the choir. Upon her resignation to become Mrs. Joseph L. Rhodes, of New Orleans, Miss Page was given a vote of thanks from the session and a "fifty-dollar check", says the record. Mrs. D. E. McConnell, then Miss Pansy Traywick, also served for a time, as did James A. Page. Upon the resignation of Miss Page in December, 1906, it is interesting to read from the minutes of the session of that time, that the treasurer was instructed to pay the next organist the salary of five dollars a month! In March, 1908, the stipend was raised to \$100 a year. On November 17, 1907, Miss Pearl Gallant was elected organist. She served well and faithfully for seven or eight years. She resigned in 1914.

At this time a new Kimball pipe organ was purchased and installed. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Craig had a large part in the buying of this organ. After the installation of this instrument in 1914, the music committee seems to have had some trouble in getting a satisfactory organist and director of music.

On December 16, 1914, the music committee was instructed to employ R. L. Keesler, of Charlotte, "on the best terms possible as organist and director of music, the amount of his salary not to exceed \$50 a month." Mr. Keesler was a well known musician of Charlotte, and prominent in Shrine circles. One week later, the committee reported that Mr. Keesler would not come at that price. Suitable arrangements must have been made for it is of record that he acted as director of music and organist for several months.

On January 24, 1915, the committee was instructed to make a contract with Mr. J. A. Klein as organist, the contract to be in writing and a copy to be filed with the clerk of the session. On October 24, 1915, the music committee recommended that Mr. Klein's services would not be needed after January 1, 1916. On December 9, 1915, Mr. H. A. Stirewalt was employed as organist and director of the music. The record does not state how long he was with the church in that capacity, but it was for a short period only.

It seems that Mr. Klein was a German and his views and opinions about that time, just before we entered the First World War, did not sit well with the members of the church.

Dr. C. R. Fisher, professor of music in Queens College, Charlotte, a native of England, served for a year or longer as organist. He was an unusually well-equipped musician, and the music under his direction was very acceptable. He had a number of piano-organ pupils in the congregation and in the city.

He was a native of Bournemouth, England, and Dr. J. H. Henderlite visited him there when he made his trip to Europe in 1926. Miss Mary Ramsey, of Hickory, succeeded Dr. Fisher. Her term of duty was likewise satisfactory. She was very capable and popular. She was employed October 7, 1917, and served until ill health forced her retirement in November, 1925.

Mrs. T. L. Wilson, the former Miss Nellie Rose Sloan, served as organist for several years with Miss Myrtle Warren as director of the choir. Mrs. Hugh A. Query succeeded Mrs. Wilson as organist. Mrs. R. H. Philhower was the pianist, a position she still holds. Just before and during Mrs. Query's term as organist, Edwin M. Steckel, director of music in the Gastonia city schools, filled in at times, and gave organ lessons. He also served as organist at the Second Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

Mrs. I. M. Ellis succeeded Mrs. Query and served until Mrs. Fred Ratchford was elected. Following Mrs. Ratchford was Miss Martha Carpenter, now Mrs. William Connor, of



Lexington, Ky. Mrs. Robert Miller, the former Edith Morrow, Miss Josephine Eden, Robert Barkley, Miss Martha Rhyne, and Miss Dorothy Wilson have all served as organists.

The present organist is Mrs. W. Ralph Armstrong, formerly Miss Elizabeth Brewer, teacher of organ in Limestone College, Gaffney, S. C. and in Bessie Tift College, Forsyth, Ga.

Mrs. Armstrong is a member of the American Guild of Organists. She is a graduate of the Guilmant Organ School in New York and has studied at the Juilliard School and also at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N. Y.

In 1934, while Mrs. Query was organist, a new Kilgen organ was purchased and installed. At the same time some alterations were made. The organ was moved farther to the right and the console was placed on the floor level of the church. The choir loft was enlarged and raised and the piano moved from the floor of the church to the choir loft.

Mr. Edgar Love, brother of John F. Love, was the first director of the choir, as so described in the Shields history. With the exception of Miss Myrtle Warren, Mrs. Holland Morrow and Mrs. Harry Rutter, most of the work of directing the choirs fell upon the organist of the day and time, particularly when such men as Robert L. Keesler, J. A. Klein and Dr. Fisher were employed. Misses Mary Ramsey and Myrtle Warren were largely responsible for the music while they were connected with the choir. With the coming of Joe Overmyer, the music of the church was given added emphasis. He served as director of the choir and assistant pastor until he left in 1934. His work as tenor soloist, and as member of a quartet was outstanding. He was constantly on call for many civic and religious meetings.

Rev. C. G. McKnight served as the next director of the choir and of the music. He was a graduate of the Westminster choir school. He did pioneer work in organizing junior and primary choirs. His influence was long felt in the church.

Rev. I. M. Ellis, the present pastor, came to the church in 1937 as assistant to the pastor and director of music. Under his direction, the choir continued to fill a large part



in the services of the church. Largely upon the suggestion of Mr. Ellis, the church adopted the practice of employing graduates of the Westminster Choir School as directors of music. The first of these was Miss Helen Hubbert, now Mrs. John Kemp, of the faculty of the Westminster Choir School, Princeton, N. J. Next was Miss Martha Jane Enck, of Biglerville, Pa., now Mrs. William E. Loftin, of Tallahassee, Fla. The third was Miss Emma Binns, of Roanoke, Va., now Mrs. James Bercaw, of Liberty, Mo. All these young ladies were talented singers and directors and were much loved by the people of the church. In addition to their duties with the choir, they also helped with the work of the young people.

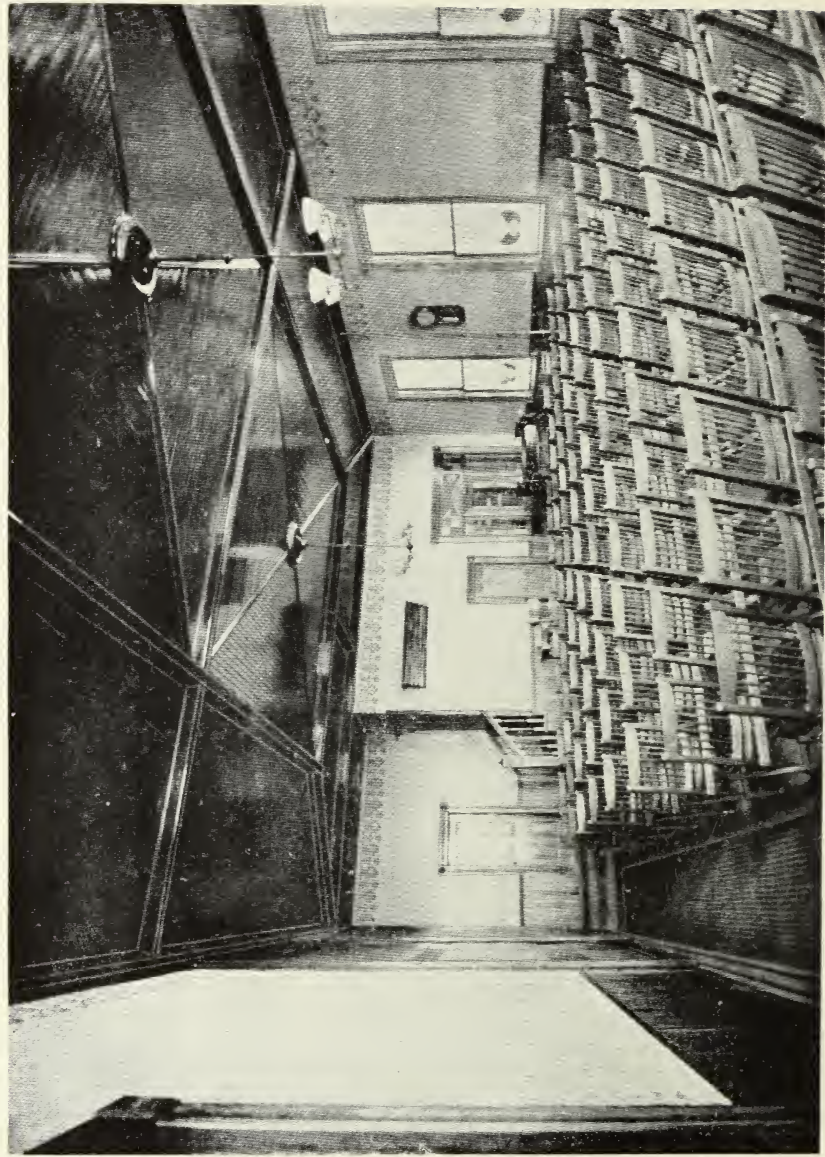
R. J. Wheeler, who came to Gastonia from Philadelphia as metallurgist with the A. B. Carter Company, is now the musical director and leader of the choir. The church is fortunate in being able to have the services of such a trained musician and director as Mr. Wheeler. He studied choir training and voice culture under Herbert Witherspoon, of Richmond, one of the foremost teachers in the country, under Jean Trigg, of Richmond, and under Henry Hotz, of Philadelphia.

In the latter city, Mr. Wheeler sang in the choir of the Central Congregational Church, and also sang professionally. He organized "The Madrigals", a double quartet which gained much prominence in New Jersey and Philadelphia. He has been playing the trombone since he was a young man of 16 and has been directing choirs since he was 21. Under his direction the local choir has reached a high degree of musical ability. Music is a hobby with Mr. Wheeler and he serves without pay, turning over his salary to the Wheeler Educational Foundation.

## HISTORY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

The earliest records of the Sunday school department of the First Presbyterian Church as far as can be found are from the minutes of the session of June 7, 1885, where it is noted that "J. A. Boyd asked to be relieved of his charge of superintendent of the Sabbath school". Dr. C. E. Adams was named in his place, with J. L. Adams assistant. Later,

*The First Sunday School Room*



Mr. A. M. Smyre was superintendent for a number of years. The minutes of March 16, 1898, show that Dr. C. E. Adams was again elected superintendent of the Sabbath school, with J. H. Kennedy as assistant and J. L. Robinson secretary. Dr. Adams served for several years as superintendent of the first church Sunday school until he became too busy with outpost work in the suburban areas of Gastonia. J. E. Page, F. A. Costner, and J. F. Jackson also served from time to time. Elder Harry Rutter was elected the next superintendent. He served from about 1911 to 1918.

Mr. J. H. Kennedy who had served both as secretary and assistant superintendent under former superintendents, was the next head of the Sunday School.

In the meantime, the church had grown from the old fashioned idea of having church and Sunday school all in one room, and the Sunday school annex to the new building on Marietta street was constructed on the Akron plan with individual rooms opening off the assembly room, where all the classes could meet together for devotional exercises.

In 1921 the religious education building was erected to take care of the growing church school with the several departments having their own assembly room and also individual class rooms. This was known as the departmental system and has replaced the old and out-moded "Akron plan". It was largely through the efforts and planning of O. C. Williamson, now pastor of Cook's Memorial Church, Charlotte, then a student at Union Theological Seminary, that the departmental plan was inaugurated here. He spent one summer here re-organizing the Sunday school.

Joe B. Overmyer succeeded J. H. Kennedy as the next superintendent. Other superintendents who followed Mr. Overmyer were the late Rufus M. Johnston, Jr., Andrew S. Melvin, Charles Moss, D. R. LaFar, Fred Ratchford and Howard Whisnant.



# *The Session 50 Years Ago*



*J. E. Page*

*J. R. Shannon*

*J. Q. Holland, Clerk*

*Rev. M. McG. Shields, Pastor*

*B. G. Bradley*

*A. M. Smyre*

*C. E. Adams*

## CHAPTER VIII

### *Interesting Incidents in History*

In recording the history of an organization like the First Presbyterian Church, there are so many items that seem worthy of preserving in print for posterity that it is hard to decide which to include and which to omit for lack of space.

There are also many interesting items and incidents which are so pertinent that they cannot be left out, but, if included in the year-by-year chronological history of the church, would tend to slow down the narrative and interrupt the continuity.

Hence, it is planned in this chapter to recall some of these several events and happenings, without strict regard to their time and place in this history. The main idea is to reproduce them as part of the record, and to add to the human interest. It was not the idea of the historian that this volume should be only a dry and uninteresting recital of dates and names. Human interest stories out of the lives of our fathers and grandfathers have been picked up from the old minutes and records of the church. Many of these are amusing, some are startling, but we believe that all are interesting and deserving of a place in this history.

The early records of the Gastonia church reveal some outstanding facts and characteristics.

For one thing, the elders in the early days and on down to more recent times seemed to be more conscientious in their attendance upon the church courts than at present. In the 1890s and early 1900s travel was by train, and often a representative to Synod or Presbytery was absent from home several days, particularly if he attended Synod which met in Wilmington, Raleigh, Greensboro, New Bern, or Asheville. What is now Kings Mountain Presbytery was once part of Mecklenburg Presbytery, the division being made, it seems from "Our Church Record" for September



1898, in that year. The pastor of the local church at that time, Rev. M. McG. Shields, in an article in *The Record* gave several reasons why it was desirable for a new Presbytery to be composed of Gaston, Lincoln, Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties. It was pointed out by Mr. Shields that Mecklenburg Presbytery as constituted at that time was too large, covering eight counties, 30 miles north and south, and 150 miles east and west. The new Presbytery, he argued, would be amply large, 30 miles wide and 75 long. It would make for fuller representation at the meetings, especially from the smaller churches and a wider diffusion of attendant blessings.

It is noted that there was always a representative from this church and that he made a full report of his attendance at the next meeting of the session following his return. More often than not he reported that he "took part in all the discussions of the body and voted upon every matter that came up."

However, in the minutes of the session in April, 1882, there is one exception. Mecklenburg Presbytery met in Wadesboro, and Rev. R. Z. Johnston, of Lincolnton, was stated clerk. It was noted in his handwriting in the minute book which was semi-annually submitted to Presbytery for examination and approval, that the minutes were approved at the spring meeting of Presbytery with one exception, viz: "The elder to Synod did not report to the session his faithfulness". The above instance is unusual and is the only such noted in all the minutes examined.

## CHURCH SESSION WAS STRICT

In the early days of the church the oversight of the session over the members of the church was much more strict than now. Most of us would be horrified should such action be taken against some of the members of the present day and time that were pronounced against members of half a century ago, and less.

The minutes of the session beginning in 1885, the first written record that can be found of the early sessional meetings, relate incident after incident of various members

of the church being summoned before the session for various offenses against the laws of the church and the prescribed Book of Church Order. Time after time the session of the church in the '90s named members of the body to confer with "Brother So-and-So" for partaking of "spirituous liquors", or for "becoming intoxicated". The record tells of one good brother who was summoned before the session for intoxication. His defense was that "he was testing the potency of a certain kind of beer that was being sold in town, did it, as he thought, with a good motive, and he was unaware of its strength until it was too late, but he promised not to be guilty again".

Most of the above cases ended, however, in the member's craving the mercy of the session upon promise not to be guilty again.

On one or two occasions, members were charged with "fighting on the streets", and were visited in Christian love and sympathy by committees from the session. Some times, however, the guilty party would not heed a summons to appear before the session, in case of a particularly heinous offense. Several summons were issued and finally, the brother was cited for "contumacy". This dread sentence had its effect, and the erring brother professed repentance and sought to be re-instated in the church.

Of course, all these investigations were secretly conducted by the members of the session, and in general the public knew nothing about what was going on, except when it became necessary to remove one's name from the roll of membership of the church. Often this action of the session was read before the congregation.

It seems that there was quite a bit of excitement caused by the so-called "bucket shops" in the early days of Gastonia, wherein there was reported to be gambling on cotton futures. Several members were cited before the session for playing the markets. Most of them were let off with a sharp reprimand.

On one occasion a member of the church appeared before the session to answer to the charge of engaging in the business of store-keeper and gauger in a government whiskey distillery. He admitted the truth of the charge,

but said that at present he was not so engaged. He said further that he felt no penitence for his having engaged in this business, and could give the session no assurance that he would not engage in the same business in the future. He was ordered suspended from the sealing ordinances of the church until he manifested satisfactory evidence of repentance.

On another occasion a good elder was appointed to confer with a member who was said to have been intoxicated. He reported that the erring brother "owned to being in company of some that were drinking, but was not under the influence of drink at all, and got away from the ones that were drinking as soon as possible." His explanation was received as satisfactory.

Another member was indefinitely suspended from all church privileges upon his own acknowledgement of being guilty of profane swearing and drinking and his name was ordered to be read out next Sabbath before the congregation.

Still another member admitted to using some wine and cider, "and might have been somewhat under the influence of it, but had not been drunk. By the help of God he would not be guilty of the offense again. His explanation was received as satisfactory," the minutes of the session read.

Another man, on January 3 of a certain year was summoned to appear before the session to answer charges of being store-keeper and gauger. He sent word that it did not suit his convenience to come on that date. He was summoned again on January 17, but did not appear. On March 28 he was again summoned, and warned that if he did not appear he would be cited for "contumacy". He failed to heed the summons and on April 13 was suspended from the roll of the church.

In those early days membership in the church seemed to be more highly regarded than it is now, and the disgrace of having been turned out of the church was seriously regarded.

On the other hand, in the early days of the church in the late '80s and '90s when illicit stills were plentiful in the county, there was, of course, much drinking and carousing

around, and, as mentioned, some good church members fell victims to temptation. All in all, however, those were good old days and the fatherly ministrations of the session composed of men like the late B. G. Bradley, J. Q. Holland, J. R. Shannon, A. M. Smyre, J. E. Page and Dr. C. E. Adams, made for a wholesome influence in the community.

### J. H. KENNEDY AND CORNET

Times do change. For instance, we read from the minutes of the session of January 26, 1902, that "J. H. Kennedy appeared before the session and asked permission to lead the music in the Sunday school with his cornet"! Rev. M. McG. Shields was pastor. The session was composed of Messrs. Bradley, Holland, Smyre and Shannon. The March 2nd meeting of the session noted that the request had been withdrawn. There must have been some opposition to the innovation.

Even as late as July 12, 1925, permission of the session was obtained for the use of the violin in the church service. Dr. Henderlite was pastor and the session that voted on this proposal was composed of Messrs. T. L. Craig, A. C. Jones, John Frank Jackson, J. H. Kennedy, J. F. Thomson, R. C. Patrick, C. J. McCombs and J. A. Hunter.

On July 31, 1904, the minutes of the session with Rev. Mr. Shields as moderator, and members present: C. E. Adams, F. A. Costner, J. R. Baber, J. Q. Holland, J. A. Hunter, J. F. Jackson, J. E. Page and J. F. Thomson, passed a resolution that the "members of this body meet with the official members of other churches in town to discuss some means of ridding the town of the bucket shops." Capt. J. Q. Holland was clerk of the session, a position he held for many years, beginning with the first recorded minutes of the session in 1885.

### FIRST SESSIONAL MINUTES IN 1885

The first minutes of the session of the Presbyterian church that have been found are dated June 7, 1885. Rev. W. E. McIlwaine was moderator, and the members of the session were, as noted in the minutes, B. G. Bradley, A. M.

Smyre and J. Q. Holland. Mr. J. R. Shannon's name first appeared in the minutes of December 19, 1886. The name of Dr. R. H. Adams also appeared as an elder in the minutes of the meeting. On this date also Mr. G. W. Ragan and wife, Mrs. Zoe Ragan, were received from New Hope Presbyterian Church. At the next meeting of the session, held January 30, 1887, Mr. H. H. Spencer and wife, M. A. Spencer appeared before the session "and were examined on their religious experience. Having made a satisfactory profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they were admitted to the sealing ordinances of the Lord's Supper." This was the favorite phraseology of the late Capt. Holland in his account of reception of members who made profession of their faith before the session.

At a meeting of the session on January 29, 1888, Elder B. G. Bradley was requested to see a certain member of the church about absenting himself from the house of God. Mr. Bradley was also appointed a committee of one to "wait upon" another member and "see what he had to say for using profane language and being under the influence of whiskey, and report at an early date".

At a meeting of the session held February 9, 1890, the name of one member of the church was "stricken from the church roll on account of reasons best known to session".

As an example of how the young church was growing and recruiting members, it is of interest to note that at a meeting of the session held January 5, 1887, "M. A. Rhyne was received from Luther's Chapel, a Lutheran church in this county, and Mrs. M. A. Rhyne, wife of M. A. Rhyne, from Pisgah A. R. P. Church". They were parents of Dane and Fred Rhyne and of the late Coit Rhyne, all officers at one time in our church.

During the pastorate of Rev. Mr. McIlwaine, additional elders were elected as follows: R. H. Adams, J. R. Shannon, R. C. G. Love and C. E. Adams. Additional deacons were elected as follows: R. T. Harper, T. C. Pegram, G. W. Ragan, E. F. Glenn, F. A. Costner and John F. Love. The first deacons were R. H. Adams, R. H. Bell and William Bradley.



On May 19, 1890, at a meeting of the session the following were received into the membership of the church: Misses Minnie Bradley, Ida Gray, Katie L. Wilson, Rosa M. Adams, Mary L. Warren, Mamie Love, Alda Smyre, Stella Glenn, M. J. Shannon, Mary A. Bradley, Annie M. Wilson, Nellie Gay McLaughen, and Messrs. Frost Torrence, J. White Ware, Robert J. Craig, Will W. Glenn, Sam W. Bradley, Ross Blackwood, M. L. Bradley, Ben W. Craig, E. D. Howe, E. C. Farris, M. A. Thomson, Peyton Rhyne, Alfred and D. L. Rhyne and George W. Mellon.

### REV. C. W. ROBINSON, PASTOR

In January, 1891, Rev. Mr. McIlwaine asked that the pastoral relations be dissolved in order that he might accept evangelistic work in Mecklenburg Presbytery.

Rev. C. W. Robinson was called to the pastorate, taking up the work in April, 1891. He was an uncle of Mrs. J. H. Matthews, wife of one of our present elders.

On February 19, 1893, at a meeting of the session moderated by Rev. D. S. McAlister, of Bethel Presbytery, the following were received into the membership of the church: Misses Mattie M. Glenn, Cora Spencer, Ann Kincaid, Clara Holland, Bessie Holland, Mary Hope Adams, and Sue M. Gallant, and T. H. Adams, Augustus Page, James Page and Lean Adams. April 5th of this same year, the following were received into the church: Misses Minnie and Ann Suggs, Minnie Gray, Irene Costner, Blanch Anders, Cora Kincaid, Bessie Baber, and Messrs. Ira Kincaid, Ward Bell, Sam Alexander, Arthur Spencer, Robert Lee Adams, Marsh Morrow and Frank Gray.

On October 18, 1893, it was noted that Mr. C. B. Armstrong was received as a member of the church by certificate from New Hope Presbyterian Church, and also Mrs. C. B. Armstrong by certificate from the Lutheran Chapel Church in Gaston county. Also noted that Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Baber were received by certificate from Woodlawn Presbyterian Church in Sharon, S. C.

At another meeting one member requested that his name be stricken from the roll of members of the church,

*Original Church Building, 1883-1896*



*Rev. R. P. Smith, Pastor, in Foreground*

inasmuch as "he doubts his conversion and does not conscientiously believe that he ought to be a member of the church." It was ordered that his name be stricken from the roll.

### REV. R. P. SMITH PASTOR IN 1893

Rev. R. P. Smith came to the pastorate in December, 1893. He was one of the most beloved ministers in the history of the church.

On September 30, 1894 at a meeting of the session, the first mention was officially made as to the erection of a new church or the repairing of the old building. The minutes state that "a congregational meeting was ordered to be called October 10th for the purpose of considering the matter of repairing our present house of worship or of building a new one." The minutes of the congregational meetings were not kept at this time, or else have been lost, as there are no records of congregational meetings available until the coming of Rev. M. McG. Shields as pastor in the early part of 1897.

The old church building, still remembered by some of the members of the present congregation, stood on about what is the site of the Abresch home on Long Avenue, although there was no Long Avenue at that time. The church sat back from the road, which is now Airline Avenue, then part of the road to Dallas. There was an avenue of elm trees leading from the road straight to the church, wide enough to accommodate both pedestrians, carriages and buggies. The area behind the church was used for hitching horses and mules. It was a neat brick church of simple Gothic design, and very comfortable. There was a modest steeple and cupola. The bell which was used then is still in use in the Third Presbyterian Church, colored, of this city.

Miss Stella Holland, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. J. Q. Holland, was organist in the old church at the time of her marriage to S. N. Boyce. This marriage took place in 1888, with Dr. W. E. McIlwaine performing the ceremony, assisted by Dr. William M. McElwee of Lexington, Va., an uncle of Mr. Boyce.

Mr. Boyce recalls that the time of the wedding was fixed so that they might hurry from the church to the Southern depot, a few hundred yards away to catch a south-bound train. As luck would have it, the train was an hour late, and an impromptu reception was held at the Falls house. Mr. and Mrs. Boyce visited Louisville, Ky., and Cincinnati on their wedding trip. Mrs. Frost Torrence was another of the early organists in the old church.

It is not known what became of the church and pulpit furniture in the old building when the present structure was occupied a few years later. It is believed that some of the pulpit chairs and a table were used in the ladies' parlor of the new church.

It is of interest to note here that Rev. Mr. Smith had an assistant, who helped not only in the local congregation, but did home mission work throughout Gaston county. He was Walter L. Lingle, then a student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He later became President of the Assembly's Training School for lay workers, and of Davidson College, a moderator of the General Assembly and one of the foremost leaders of the Southern church. Dr. Lingle still recalls with pleasure his work in Gastonia and Gaston county under Mr. Smith in the middle 90's.

On June 28, 1896, the following were received into the membership of the church: Misses Edith Adams, Annie Flonk, Bess Gallant, Laura Page, Bessie and Edith McLean.

Dr. Smith resigned to accept work as home mission superintendent in Asheville Presbytery where he did a monumental work among the mountaineers until his death in 1936.

Incidentally, his daughter, Mrs. R. D. Bedinger, remembered in Gastonia, as Miss Julia Smith, has written a most interesting little booklet about her father and mother, in which she has recorded many interesting items about their lives both here and in other pastorates. It is called "Blended Blessings or Two Lives of Service".

In an editorial at the time of his death, The Asheville Citizen said: "For forty years Dr. R. P. Smith who fell asleep at his home in this city Wednesday, was the good shepherd to unnumbered people in Western North Carolina.



They loved him for his work. They loved him for what he was . . . The story of his labors in the mountains is familiar, but it is a story only parts of which have been told. The mountain country of 1896 was far different from what it is now. The rural communities in which Dr. Smith labored were essentially primitive. Forty churches and school buildings were built under his inspiration, and in every instance, they were debt free. Under his ministry many gave their hearts to God. He has gone now to his reward. His works remain to hallow his memory".

Copies of the book, "Blended Blessings", which contain many interesting items of the life of Dr. and Mrs. Smith while in Gastonia, may be had from Mrs. Bedinger in Asheville. One such tells of the time when Dr. Smith was preaching for a fellow minister in the county and a wasp dropped down the back of Dr. Smith's collar. He had to retire from the pulpit and have the wound plastered with tobacco juice before he could continue the service.

Another incident tells about a turkey which strayed from the grocery store of one of the members of the church, who was a deacon, and took up in the Smith's backyard. The kindly deacon generously donated the bird to the pastor's wife and she entertained all the elderly ladies of the congregation at a big turkey dinner. No one under 70 years of age was eligible for an invitation. The book is full of such interesting items and a copy ought to be in the home of every family with a representative that remembers Dr. and Mrs. Smith, Mabel, Julia and Bernard.

In September, 1898, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Rankin were received into the membership of the church from the New Hope and Belmont churches, respectively. In November, 1898, Mrs. Alda Smyre Robinson resigned as organist. On January 1, 1899, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lindsay were received into the membership of the church from the Yorkville, S. C. church. In the same month, "Misses Lily Gertrude Johnson and Julia Smith appeared before the session and after a satisfactory examination were admitted to the sealing ordinances of the church."

On September 1, 1907 the session recommended the names of E. H. Rinehart and Augustus McLean to Kings



Mountain Presbytery as candidates for the ministry. Mr. McLean was a son of the church, having been raised from early boyhood in the home of Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Adams. He has served pastorates at Bowling Green, S. C., Clover, S. C., and in Oklahoma, and is now pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Lenoir. Rev. Messrs. H. W. and B. O. Shannon, sons of J. R. Shannon, were also sons of this church.

One of the interesting sidelights of the early history of the church is that connected with the beautiful water oak trees now standing between the church and the manse. These trees were set out by Mr. Joe Ratchford, of the New Hope section, father of Rev. Raymond Ratchford, pastor of Goshen Church, and his brother the late E. E. Ratchford, father of Mrs. Coit E. Rhyne. Old pictures of the present church building which are carried in the history written by Rev. Mr. Shields, show that these trees, set out some time in 1897, were three or four inches in diameter. Mr. Ratchford said that he also set out a large number of the elm trees in the city, most of which have been destroyed by the inroads of telephones, electric lights, sewer lines and paved streets. Thanks to the resistance offered by a number of South York street residents, most of the beautiful elms on that street have been preserved. As a result, it is one of the most beautiful residential streets in the city today.

## CHAPTER IX

### *Present Manse Built in 1905*

In 1905 the present manse on Marietta street was erected under the direction of a committee composed of J. O. White, G. W. Ragan, J. Lee Robinson, John F. Love, A. M. Smyre, and John Frank Jackson. It is of interest to read from the minutes of a congregational meeting of March 28, 1905 that it was decided to build a new manse and to improve the sidewalk in front of the church at a cost not to exceed \$4,000. Messrs. John F. Love and J. Lee Robinson were named on a committee to ascertain if satisfactory arrangements could be made for borrowing the money. The committee later reported that the arrangement had been made and that the money could be had, borrowed at six per cent interest. It was moved and carried by the congregation that the cost be limited to \$4,000.

At another congregational meeting held in the fall of that year, October 9, 1905, held for the purpose of "considering some proposed changes in the piazza of the manse". Mr. J. Lee Robinson stated that "additional piazza could be built at about \$4.35 per lineal foot".

Mr. J. H. Kennedy moved that "the committee be authorized to spend an additional \$1,000 for the following purposes: Excavating and walling basement, to purchase mantels in keeping with the building, screens, range, additional piazza, electrical fixtures, grading of grounds and the building of a barn".

Think of all that for \$1,000 in the light of present day prices! One thousand dollars would not go much farther than the digging and walling of a basement, not to mention all the other improvements and additions mentioned above. Note too, that a barn was also included. The new preacher, Rev. R. C. Anderson, who had just come to the pastorate from Shelbyville, Tenn., was a lover of horses and had a

*The Manse, 1948*



good saddle horse. He was a fine horseman, sitting his steed gracefully and erect. He was a familiar figure on the streets of Gastonia and surrounding territory, as he made many pastoral calls on horseback.

The stone hitching post which was erected in front of the manse on the edge of the sidewalk for his convenience and accommodation, is still standing to this day, 43 years later. Dr. Anderson set out the maple trees now growing in the front yard, and also some of the fruit trees in the back yard. The Henderlites also set some of the fruit trees.

## EARLY OFFICERS OF CHURCH

At this point let us go backward a few years in time and pick up some more of the many interesting items and incidents which happened from time to time.

The first recorded minutes of a congregational meeting were those of December 13, 1896, when a call was extended to Rev. M. McG. Shields to become pastor of the church. What happened to the minutes of other congregational meetings for the ten years prior to this no one knows.

On August 21, 1898, four additional deacons were elected as follows: J. Lee Robinson, J. A. Hunter, E. N. Lineberger and Thomas W. Wilson. Mr. Lineberger found himself unable to serve, and at the next meeting in October, Mr. J. E. Curry was elected.

On January 19, 1902, two elders and four deacons were elected, Dr. W. H. Hoffman and G. W. Ragan, being elected elders and J. H. Kennedy, W. Y. Warren, J. A. Page and J. F. Thompson being elected deacons. Dr. Hoffman found himself unable to serve and F. A. Costner was elected an elder in his place. On February 9th, J. R. Baber was elected a deacon.

On October 25, 1903, the next recorded congregational meeting, three elders, Messrs. John Frank Jackson, J. A. Hunter, and J. R. Baber were elected, and four deacons, Messrs. S. A. Robinson, J. N. Bell, E. J. Rankin and T. N. Kendrick.

On March 3, 1907 additional deacons were elected as follows: J. O. White, D. A. Page, W. W. Glenn and Dr. H. F.



Glenn. On February 26, 1911 four elders were elected as follows: J. F. Thomson, J. H. Kennedy, A. C. Jones and Harry Rutter.

On February 2, 1913, the following deacons were ordained and installed: C. B. Armstrong, T. L. Craig, C. I. Loftin, W. T. Rankin, F. L. Smyre, J. W. Timberlake, A. K. Winget, and W. W. Glenn. On April 6, 1919 the following were installed: O. O. Baber, J. A. Hunter, Jr., D. R. LaFar, George E. Marvin, R. C. Patrick, J. White Ware, E. N. Pegram, and Dr. Ralph Ray.

On April 16, 1919 the minutes of the session show that the following elders were installed: T. L. Craig, P. W. Garland, W. F. Kincaid, W. T. Love, J. H. Matthews, C. J. McCombs, John O. Rankin and S. W. Patrick.

On February 24, 1926, another congregational meeting is recorded. There is a space of 15 years, including the years of the First World War in which there were no congregational meetings recorded. At the election held on this date, the following from the board of deacons were elected elders: J Lee Robinson, F. L. Smyre, Dr. H. F. Glenn, T. W. Wilson, S. A. Robinson, J. W. Timberlake and R. C. Patrick. Mr. Robinson asked that he be excused from serving as an elder. From the congregation at large, R. R. Ray, W. P. Moore and J. H. Keller were elected. It was also ordered that enough deacons be elected to bring the total number to 40. The election resulted in the following 22 being named: H. P. Lineberger, Fred M. Allen, Charles Ford, Hugh E. White, Robertson LaFar, Dr. O. L. Miller, Charles Ross, Ben E. Douglas, T. Henry Wilson, Coit E. Rhyne, H. G. Winget, Ed C. Adams, W. R. Armstrong, W. Y. Gardner, J. L. Kendrick, T. E. Leavitt, William H. Patrick, T. L. Wilson, V. G. Grier and Hugh A. Query. One week later four more were elected to bring the total to 40: Ralph Robinson, P. H. Thompson, L. K. Lee and Rufus Rankin. Mr. Robinson declined the election.

The rotary system of electing deacons was adopted in the year 1934. Ten new deacons are elected each year to take the places of ten others who retire, after having served three years. The rotary system does not apply to the elders.



In 1914 the Sunday school annex was altered and much improved by the addition of individual class rooms. The original Sunday school room had a square, right-angled finish. The new addition included the curved wall and interior.

In 1921 the present commodious religious education building was erected at a cost of \$75,000. Later the hut was built, financed by the issuance of hut certificates, which, in reality, were baby bonds payable in five years, and bearing six per cent interest. The next structure to be erected was the Boy Scout building, which was named for Mr. G. W. Ragan, who gave the lot for the building.

It is interesting to compare the price of the present educational building erected in 1921 at a cost of about \$75,000 with the original church structure which was built in 1895 at a cost of \$19,000. The educational building cost nearly four times what the first church building cost. But there was a vast difference in costs of both labor and material. The original church was built in nine months. There were no 40-hour weeks or eight-hour days then. The construction of the church proceeded with marvelous speed.

If, in 1921 the cost of building was four times what it was in 1895, what would it be now? It is safe to say that the present church plant could not be replaced for \$400,000.

The hut was built in 1923, one idea being that of saving fuel, since it was much more economical to heat a small building for the pastor's study, office of his assistant, and the church secretary, than to heat the entire church. The hut has become a general all-purpose building. Both the deacons and elders hold their sessions there, it houses all the members of the church staff, is used by the young people for their Sunday morning classes, for prayer meeting, for choir practice and for committee meetings of every organization in the church. It has three offices and a large assembly room. The Young Peoples' Fellowship meetings are also held in the hut. As a matter of fact, it is in constant use from 12 to 15 hours a day throughout the week. It was built at a cost of about \$5,000.

With the revival of interest in the Boy Scout Program, it was soon seen that a separate building was needed for the

*The Hut, Center Church Activities*



Scouts. So, upon a lot that was given by Mr. G. W. Ragan, a modern Boy Scout hut was built, with open fire places both inside and out, a recreation room, work shop and all the other equipment that goes with Scouting. It is used exclusively by the Scouts. The local troop is one of the most active in the city.

## PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING ERECTED IN NINE MONTHS

The present church building was erected and occupied in the space of nine months. That is hard to believe. Of course, the original building did not contain the present Sunday school annex, or the young peoples' building. How it looked can be seen from the picture to be found elsewhere in this history.

Work on the building was begun May 15, 1895, and on the second Sunday in February, 1896, nine months later, the first service was held. And it was built by the people of that congregation out of their own pockets. There were no outside aid or gifts and no money raised by suppers or fairs. The following resolutions were adopted by the congregation prior to the construction:

"That no solicitations for funds be made to any person or persons outside the families of our congregation.

"That, during the building of this church we continue to pay in full all our apportionments to the benevolent causes.

"That all offerings for this purpose be voluntary, and that no funds be raised by fairs, suppers, festivals or anything of that kind."

These resolutions were strictly obeyed. It is remembered that the pressed brick, used in the construction, were something new in this part of the country. No one had ever seen anything like them. They were made in Washington, D. C. Many marvelled at their smoothness. The slate roof was another attraction. Slate as roofing material was a novelty. The only knowledge people of that day had of slate was the slate they carried to school on which they did their "ciphering".



## JOHN F. LOVE RESPONSIBLE

One of the outstanding men connected with the erection of the new building was John F. Love, then treasurer of the church. How much this man contributed personally to the cost of the construction of this church no one will ever know. He was largely responsible for the dispatch with which the work went forward, and for being ready with the money to meet payrolls and bills for materials. Older members of the congregation who remember back 50 years ago say that to him, more than any other man, is due the credit for the church. Often he met payrolls when church funds were not available. Among those who were living at the time, John F. Love is accredited with being the man most responsible for the building of the church.

When the building was dedicated in September, 1898, the building committee, through Mr. Love, reported that the cost of the building, site and manse was \$19,884.23, all of which was paid. It was further stated: "No financial obligation now rests upon the church. While your committee makes no claims to infallibility and feels very deeply its own imperfections, it regards the building as neat, comfortable and convenient in accordance with the instruction given them, and as having been finished at a very reasonable cost".

Truly the committee did a wonderfully fine job. How well they builded! Even now, 50 years later, the church is regarded as one of the most beautiful in the Synod. The interior of the main auditorium, particularly the intricate work of the overhead, is not equalled in North Carolina. Mr. B. B. Gardner and Miss Mary Warren were the first couple to be married in the church.

The stained glass windows were a marvel of beauty and wonder at the time they were installed, and still are, for that matter. They show to the best advantage in the late afternoons as the slanting rays of the sinking sun shine through the windows, casting a refulgent glow over the interior of the church. But, there are no services in the afternoons and this phase of their beauty is lost.

Most of these windows were memorial windows contributed by various members of the church in honor of some deceased loved one, child or adult. These windows and the names of those memorialized are: William A. and Susie Love, children of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. G. Love, 1872-1890 and 1883-1884, respectively; Harry E. Gallant, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Gallant, died 1892, aged 22 years; Dr. Robert H. Adams, 1854-1888; Mrs. A. Z. Ragan, wife of G. W. Ragan, 1862- 1891; Robert A. Williamson, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Williamson, 1887-1891.

In one of the Sunday school rooms is a marble tablet erected as a memorial to Miss Lizzie Adams in 1903, who for many years was the beloved leader of the children of the church, known for years as the Band of Hope.

The church was first lighted by acetylene gas, which was generated in the basement. Hot air heat was the first form of heating. Both the gas and hot air were later changed to electricity and steam heat. In the summer of 1947, an oil burning unit was installed in the place of the old coal furnace.

But, in February, 1948, when fuel oil became scarce and services had to be discontinued one Sunday because of a lack of oil, a stoker was installed, and the church returned to the use of coal for fuel. The oil burner was retained, however, and the church now has the equipment for using either coal or oil, which ever is more plentiful.

Within the past few years all the necessary equipment used in the showing of moving pictures and slides has been installed as a part of the visual education program of the church. A modern switch board has also been installed, thus making it possible to have all the lighting effects of a modern stage for use in the various pageants and cantatas staged during the several appropriate holiday seasons of the church year.

In connection with the old church which stood on what is now Long Avenue on or about the site of the present Abresch home, it is interesting to know that the young congregation, organized in 1882, built a house of worship within less than a year after the date of the organization. The



building was described as a "neat and comfortable structure, seating 400 people and constructed at a cost of \$1,500."

Compared with present day prices and the long and irritating delays encountered in any sort of construction work, we marvel at the low cost of the above two church buildings and the speed with which they were erected.

What a debt the people of this congregation owe to their fathers and grandfathers, who, at a great sacrifice, in the light of what a dollar was in those days, built and paid for this beautiful sanctuary!

## CHAPTER X

### *N. C. Synod Met Here in 1915*

One of the outstanding events in the pastorate of Dr. Henderlite was the meeting of the Synod of North Carolina in October 1915. Dr. Walter L. Lingle, then a member of the faculty of Union Seminary, was moderator. Dr. J. K. Hall, then a member of Fayetteville presbytery, was elected temporary clerk. Rev. R. P. Smith, a former pastor of this church, was the retiring moderator, and preached the opening sermon. It was the 102nd annual session.

It is of interest to read from the minutes of that meeting that on the afternoon of the second day of the session, "an invitation was received from the business men of Gastonia to take the Synod in automobiles for an outing. In view of the pressing business, the Synod respectfully declined the invitation, with thanks." An automobile ride was quite a treat in those days, in spite of the dusty, dirt roads.

From the minutes of that session of Synod it is noted that there were from 225 to 250 ministers and elders enrolled, and that they were entertained in the homes of the members of the church! That is, the folks of the First Presbyterian Church, with the friendly assistance of their friends among the other churches of the city, provided lodging, breakfast, dinner and supper for the visitors. There were no facilities for serving meals at the church as we now enjoy, and the good people of the host congregations took care of the visitors in grand style. When the Methodist conferences met here, Presbyterians helped entertain the delegates, and the same was true of other denominational gatherings.

Nowadays, that practice has been abandoned, and large church meetings, such as the Synod and the General Assembly, are held in some college or orphans' home where large scale dormitory and eating facilities are available,

*The Auditorium, Looking From Pulpit*



such as Flora McDonald, Montreat, Mitchell or Barium Springs. Even the General Assembly used to meet in churches throughout its territory, and the members were entertained in the homes of the members of the host church. Those were great events in the homes of the people. Elaborate preparations were made for the entertainment and feeding of the visiting ministers and elders. Generally speaking, the people of the home church had their choice of the visiting representatives and, as far as possible, took a minister or elder they knew, or from some church with which they had some knowledge, some times the old home church, or, perhaps, the church of a son, daughter or other relative. Those were great occasions in the lives of our fathers and mothers, and, as the old saying goes, "the big pot was put in the little one" for the notable event.

Another interesting fact in connection with the First Church is that the local chapter of the American Red Cross was organized in this church, and that Dr. Henderlite served as chairman of the organization meeting. The chapter was an outgrowth of the Gastonia Patriotic Society, a band of local teen-age girls, who had been organized by Mrs. Crown Wilson. The girls made bandages and got some hospital experience under Dr. L. N. Glenn, at the old City Hospital then located on the fourth floor of the Realty building on Main street.

The church was often used for other civic and patriotic meetings. It is recalled that former Congressman Richmond Pearson Hobson, of Spanish-American War fame, spoke in the church on prohibition, and that William Jennings Bryan, the famous Commoner, also spoke on prohibition at one time. The Henderlite Bible class room and the dining room were also used at one time for a state meeting of the Children of the American Revolution. Dr. Frank Crosley Morgan, one of the most famous Bible teachers of the world, twice conducted meetings in the church, during the pastorate of Mr. Ellis.

In the earlier days of the church, one of the most distinguished speakers to occupy the pulpit was the noted Negro missionary to Africa, Dr. W. H. Sheppard, one of the



first sent out by the Southern Presbyterian church. Others who have often appeared here are Dr. Egbert W. Smith, Dr. Henry Louis Smith, Dr. Homer McMillan, and Dr. S. H. Chester, who was then executive secretary of foreign missions. As a young pastor just out of the seminary, Dr. Chester once served as pastor at Castanea, old home church of the late Mrs. John O. Rankin, and of Rufus M. Johnston. This church was also once served by Dr. Robert Hall Morrison, first president of Davidson College, and father-in-law of General "Stonewall" Jackson. At that time this section of Lincoln county was one of the most cultured and progressive in the state.

Dr. Walter W. Moore, who preached the dedicatory sermon for the new church, was an uncle of Walter Parks Moore, an elder in our church. Dr. R. Z. Johnston, long time pastor of the Lincolnton church, and prominent in the affairs of Kings Mountain Presbytery, was the father of Joseph B. Johnston, superintendent of the orphans' home at Barium Springs. The late Dan R. Shields, of Gastonia, was a brother of Rev. M. McG. Shields.

Mrs. R. C. Anderson, the former Miss Sadie Gaither, is remembered by all older members of the church, as a most helpful pastor's wife. She made many calls among the congregation with and without her husband, Dr. Anderson, pastor from 1905 to 1911. In addition to the society, called the Daughters of the King, she also organized the Miriams, a group of girls from about 12 to 16 years of age. One of the former members of this organization recalls that they gave the Bible for the pulpit at the Loray Presbyterian Church, and walked out there one hot August afternoon with Mrs. Anderson to present it. Our informant described Mrs. Anderson as a "lovely useful woman", held in tender and affectionate regard by the women of the church.

It is also recalled that Dr. Anderson always used the song, "Home, Sweet Home," at communion services.

One of the most beautiful and memorable occasions in the pastorate of Dr. Henderlite was the service in honor of six couples, members of the church, who had observed their golden wedding anniversaries. The service was held



on the evening of March 6, 1927, with Dr. I. S. McElroy, then pastor of the Kings Mountain church, as the preacher.

Those honored at the service, all of whom were present, were Mr. and Mrs. John Frank Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Meek Adams, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Smyre, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Spencer, Rev. and Mrs. J. M. McLean and Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Ray. The subject of Dr. McElroy's sermon was, "Some of the Secrets of Success in the Marriage Relations." Special music was rendered by the choir and by a quartet composed of Mesdames H. Rutter and Holland Morrow and Messrs. J. L. Kendrick and Joe Overmyer. The bulletin for that Sunday contained appropriate messages in poetry and prose, including the well known poem of Robert Browning, "Grow Old With Me", and other selections touching on happy married life.

Another memory of Dr. Henderlite's pastorate is that of Mrs. Henderlite, then a member of the choir, taking her small son, James, to the choir to sit with her. It is recalled that he led the procession of the choir into the choir loft, carrying a hymn book, and that he was always well behaved. He sat in the choir as long as Mrs. Henderlite was a member.

### MISS ALICE DANIEL'S WORK HERE

Miss Alice G. Daniel, of Oxford, N. C., is generally credited as being most responsible for the beginning of the work at the Piedmont Chapel, formerly known as the Holland Mill. Miss Daniel was probably the first pastor's assistant in the First Presbyterian Church. She was employed to help Dr. Anderson in house to house visitation in the summer of 1909, and, at the same time, was taking a course of Bible study under his instruction. She made visits to this section of town, going from house to house and finally had one house opened to her for services for the children on Saturday afternoons. They learned Bible stories and the catechism. A Sunday school was soon organized, and Dr. Anderson preached after Sunday school on Sunday afternoons once or twice a month. Miss Daniel in a note to Mrs. R. C. McLean says that the first door in the section opened for a

gathering was that of the C. O. Williams family, followed by a neighbor, the Ray family. The children of these two families formed the nucleus of the Sunday school. The neighbors joined them from time to time, and they always came with clean faces and alert, willing minds. The family of the late Mrs. E. C. Wilson, who lived in the handsome old home on South Marietta street, just opposite the manse, were large stockholders in the old Holland Mill, and they cooperated heartily with the pastor in his efforts to provide religious instruction for the people of the community.

It is noted from Miss Daniel's letter that in the early part of 1910 Alden Anderson, of the First church, was the superintendent of the Sunday school. He left soon to enter Davidson College to prepare for the ministry.

As the work outgrew the little room of the Williams home, a committee from the First Presbyterian church was appointed to raise money with which to erect a suitable chapel in which to worship. Messrs. Leon T. and R. C. McLean led the committee in raising the funds by which the church was built in 1912.

Miss Daniel says that the first boy from the Holland Mill to recite the Child's catechism was named McKinley. He came to the church office where she was studying one afternoon and asked her to hear him recite it. He did it at one sitting. She says it was a cold, rainy afternoon, and that she sent him to the Robinson Shoe Company to be fitted in a pair of shoes, and that Mr. Sam Robinson "took from me the privilege of covering his toes."

"When I stayed at the R. C. McLeans," says Miss Daniel, "it was a long walk to the Holland Mill, and Mr. McLean kindly let me have old 'Banks' to drive quite often. Mr. Tom Warren Wilson sometimes let me drive his little pony."

Miss Alice Daniel, now living at 518 High street, Oxford, is remembered by many of the older members of the church, as a sainted and consecrated Christian worker and home missionary. She was a welcome visitor in many homes of the congregation.

In January, 1938, one of the most enjoyable occasions in the history of the church was the observance of the 25th anniversary of the coming of Dr. Henderlite to Gastonia. A

large crowd filled the church. S. A. Robinson, of the board of elders, presided. J. F. Jackson and P. W. Garland brought felicitations from the session, Mrs. W. F. Michael from the women, and H. G. Winget from the deacons. From other churches there were A. J. Kirby from the Methodist Church and W. P. Grier, S. N. Boyce and A. Frank Whitesides from the First A. R. P. The Gastonia Rotary Club of which Dr. Henderlite was former president, also held a special program in his honor.

At the Rotary meeting, Dr. Henderlite, speaking in a reminiscent mood, said that when he first came to Gastonia in 1912 he rode a bicycle everywhere he went, and that on York Street he often mired up to the hub caps. If your car broke down in those days, you had to send to Shelby for a mechanic, he said. One afternoon he left Gastonia for Charlotte, had five punctures and one blow out and did not get to Charlotte after all.

It is also worthy of mention that the first Chevrolet car in Gastonia was the one given to him by the congregation shortly after he came here. Mr. D. M. Jones was largely instrumental in making this gift. The Henderlites used the old barn for a garage until 1937 when a new double garage was built.

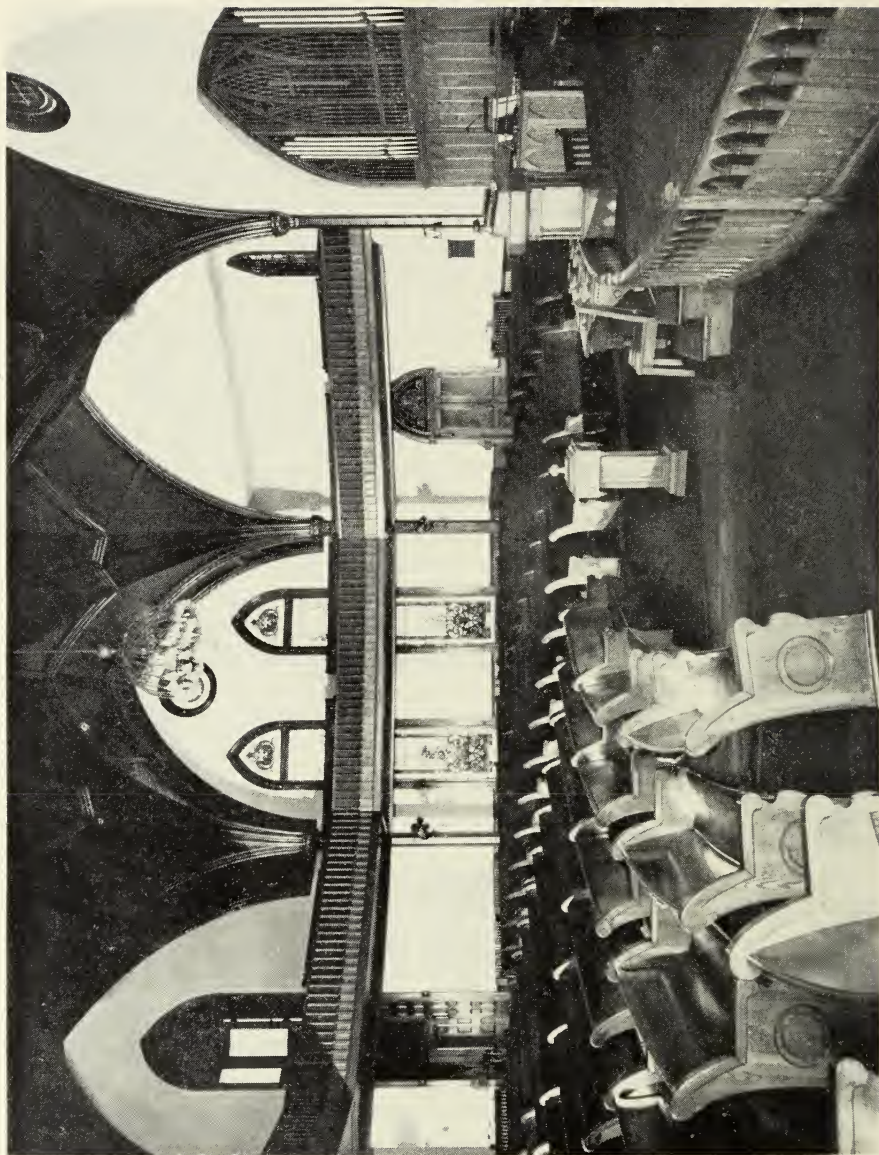
On their 25th wedding anniversary which was observed March 25th, 1938, the people of the church presented a Chrysler car to Dr. and Mrs. Henderlite.

One of the more notable accomplishments of the Woman's Auxiliary was the raising of a fund for a bronze memorial tablet and the placing of this tablet in the church in memory of Dr. Henderlite. The committee who worked so well and faithfully for this cause was composed of Mrs. G. W. Ragan, chairman, Mrs. S. A. Robinson, Mrs. J. H. Matthews, Mrs. Walter Rhyne and Mrs. J. Lee Robinson.

Another notable event of the year 1938 was the collection and distribution of 150 baskets of food for the needy of the community at Christmas. Dr. L. N. Patrick was chairman of the finance committee and C. G. Thomas was in charge of the distribution of the baskets. The Scout hut was filled to overflowing with the generous gifts from the Men's Bible class. The next year, there were 75 such baskets given at the Christmas season.



*Auditorium View, Toward Organ*



## CHAPTER XI

### *"Our Church Record"*

In connection with the monthly periodical, "Our Church Record" which served the same purposes in those days as The Beacon and the regular Sunday church bulletin of today, The Charlotte Observer of some date in 1896 said: "The Presbyterian church at Gastonia has begun the issue of a church paper, "The Church Record". A sample copy has come into The Observer office, and it is unique, interesting and highly creditable. Other churches can follow the example with beneficial results. By the way, it is true that our pretty little neighbor, Gastonia, is one of the most progressive and intelligent communities to be found anywhere, and no evidence more conclusive could be adduced than this active, up-to-date energetic congregation and their beautiful new church."

"Our Church Record" was a monthly church paper, which published Sunday school and church attendance figures, the monthly treasurer's report and various other items of church news and records. The pastor of the church was editor. J. Lee Robinson was business manager at one time, and J. H. Kennedy at another. It was discontinued in the year 1924.

In the issue of May, 1896, the treasurer's report for the preceding month published in The Record showed a total of \$217.17, disbursed as follows: Pastor's salary, \$83.33; Indian schools, \$6.50; Charity, \$16.18; Contingent expenses, \$22.10 and Balance on hands, \$74.06.

In this issue an editorial note said: "To engage in whispering or talking out in church before the services begin is a very bad habit. The mind should be composed and in a spiritual mood before engaging in worship. Make it a rule not to speak, after entering the sanctuary, unless it be absolutely necessary. Remember where you are and for what you have assembled."



## *The Junior Choir*



First row, left to right: Mary Thompson, Norma Jean Yarbrough, Margaret Boyce, Theresa Ward, Katherine Anthony, Gail Cherry, Catherine Morrow, Kay Faust, Judy Jackson, Jimmy Giles, Ralph Falls, Jr., Larry Giles, Jimmy Walton, Joan Kluttz, Bobby Gray. Second row: Florence Robinson, Nancy Thompson, Doris Ann Yarbrough, Douglas Boyce, Mack Giles, Jean Etheridge, Sarah Adams, David Mackorell, Sally Dozier, Ruby Neal Ford, Irene Cherry, Charles Loftin, III, Betty Jean Glenn, Kay Ellis.

Another note: "We would kindly advise some of our young people not to use chewing gum during religious services; it is annoying to nervous persons who may be sitting near". Rev. R. P. Smith was pastor at the time. It was noted that the "music was directed by the pastor and Mr. Edgar Love". Miss Alda Smyre was the organist. Officers of the Band of Hope were Edward Pegram, resident, Annie Plonk, vice-president, Mary Ragan, Secretary, Mildred Lineberger, Treasurer.

In the issue of September, 1899, Rev. M. McG. Shields, pastor, it was noted that the officers of the Westminster League were as follows: W. Y. Warren, president; D. A. Page, vice-president; Fred Smyre, secretary, and J. H. Workman, treasurer. Mrs. R. M. Reid was church organist and James A. Page, assistant. Officers of the Band of Hope were Julia Smith, president; Minnie Costner, vice-president; Mildred Lineberger, secretary, and Mary Ragan, treasurer.

Among those advertising in The Record at this time were Gray and Love, "dry goods and groceries," J. Q. Holland and Company, Gastonia Hardware Company, Gastonia Banking Company, John F. Love, cashier, "capital stock \$20,000, deposits, \$208,000; J. A. Hunter, "fancy groceries and confections, foreign and domestic fruits, school books and stationery, sporting goods, etc., under the YMCA Hall"; L. Thompson and Son, "home made shoes," Gastonia Door and Sash Factory, J. E. Page and Co., proprietors; Craig and Wilson, "mowers, rakes, drills, disc harrows, buggies, wagons, etc."; Hanna Brothers, new liverymen, "polite and careful drivers, white and colored"; tonsorial parlors, R. S. Alexander, proprietor, "Main Street, opposite the town pump."

In this issue it is also noted that at the home of Rev. E. E. Boyce, father of the bride, at 8:45 a. m., Mr. James H. Kennedy was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Boyce. The ceremony was performed by Rev. James Boyce, brother of the bride, assisted by Revs. J. C. Galloway and M. McG. Shields.

Supply pastors during the several absences of the pastor were Rev. Messrs. J. W. Siler, Roger Martin and A. J. McKelway. The Record extends a welcome to Prof. and

Mrs. F. P. Hall, "who are members of the faculty of Gaston Institute and expresses regret at the leaving of Prof. J. W. Reid, who goes to Waxhaw to become principal of the school, after having taught in Gaston Institute." It is noted that he carried his church letter to his new home. Letters of dismissal were granted to Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Love to unite with the Presbyterian church of Lincolnton.

In an issue of "Our Church Record" during the pastorate of Rev. R. P. Smith it is noted that: "Mary Ragan, daughter of Mr. G. W. Ragan, has recently recited the whole of our Westminster Shorter Catechism. This is quite a feat for one so young, in fact, the best record within our knowledge and we take pleasure in recording it. For this Mary received a handsome prize which she richly deserved." It is also noted that this "issue of The Record has been somewhat delayed, due to the removal of the printing office to another building, and also due to the sickness of our faithful foreman, Mr. George Glenn."

## MEMORIES OF OLD CHURCH

When the old church building was dismantled and demolished in 1897, Mrs. R. W. Gray, mother of Miss Annie Gray and of Mrs. A. K. Winget, and other well known people, picked up one of the bricks out of the old church walls to keep as a memento or souvenir of the old church. It was kept in the Gray home on North Highland Street for many years, and disappeared when the Gray home later was sold. Miss Annie thinks it is possible that it is still in the possession of some member of the family. She recalls that her mother dearly loved the church and its pastors who served while she was a member.

Most of the organists of the early days in that church were volunteers who could and would play when called on, often on the spur of the moment. It seems that Mrs. M. J. Adams, mother of Robert L., J. Lean, Lacy E. Adams and of Mrs. Rufus M. Johnston, Sr., served more than any other. Her name is listed in old copies of "Our Church Record" as organist. Both her husbands, Dr. Robert H. Adams and Dr. Charles E. Adams were very prominent in the work of the

early church. "Dr. Rob", as he was called, served as one of the first elders, although he was a young man, only in his early 30s. He died at the age of 36. His widow married her first husband's cousin, Dr. C. E. Adams.

"Dr. Charlie" Adams served as an elder for more than 40 years, as well as Sunday school superintendent for many years. He is, perhaps, more largely responsible for the several churches that have grown out of the First Church than any other man. He organized Sunday afternoon Sunday school classes in West, South and East Gastonia, which eventually led to the organization of the several churches now established in those sections of the city. No matter what the wind or weather, whether it be rain or snow, hot or cold, Dr. Adams faithfully kept his appointment at these mission points. The work grew and finally the mission posts were taken over by the church. He truly ministered, not only to the body, but to the soul.

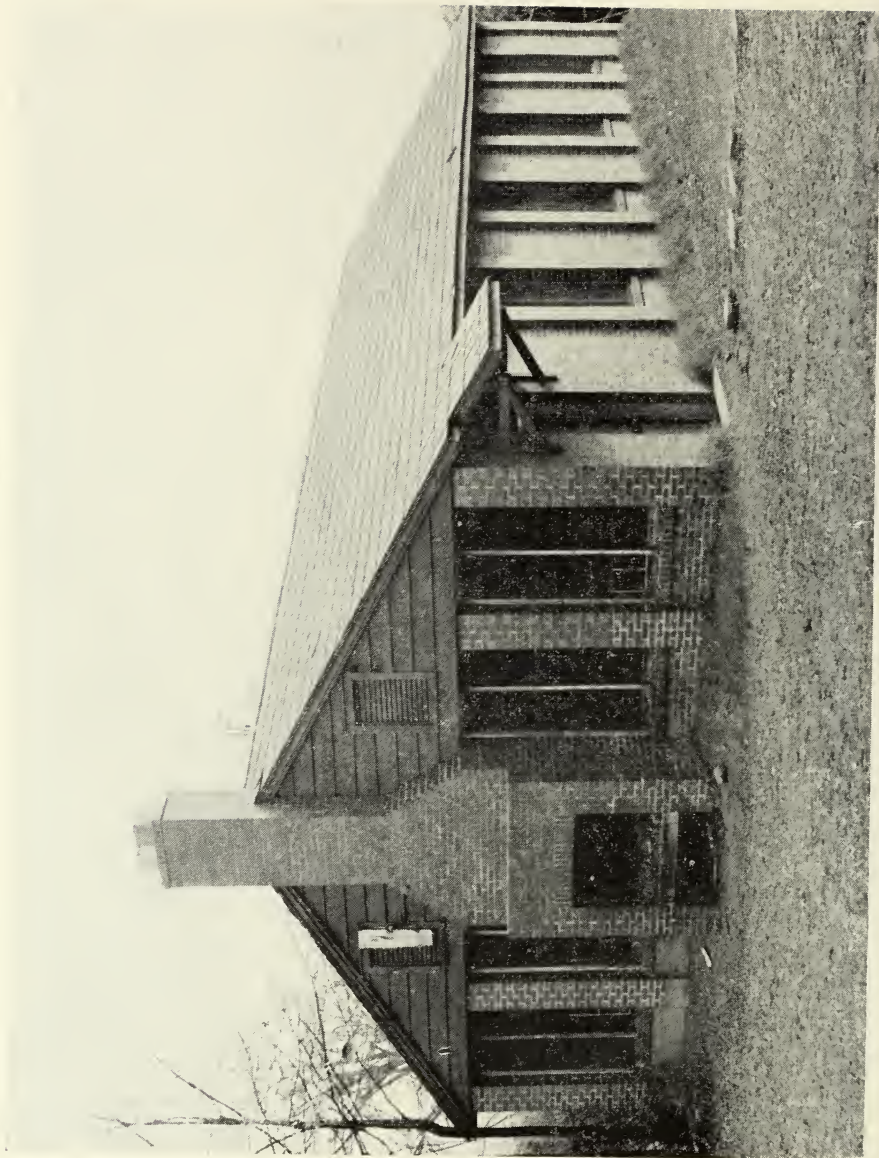
Several references are made in the early history of the church to the "academy", a school building, where services were held, until the building of the new church north of the railroad. It was sometimes called the Gaston Institute. The building and playgrounds occupied a large portion of the space on which is located the Gunter Memorial building, formerly the O. F. Mason home, which was originally built by John F. Love. The grounds also included the space now occupied by the corner filling station and most of the area between it and the present Presbyterian church property. It was a large two-story frame building with the upstairs rooms being used for dormitory purposes. It was built on a hill which has since been levelled down.

Among those who taught there at one time and another were J. A. Boyd, J. A. Bryan, J. T. Bigham, W. F. Marshall and J. A. McLaughlin, later a Presbyterian minister, J. M. Douglas and R. H. Lafferty, later members of the Davidson College faculty, Rev. and Mrs. Jesse W. Siler, J. P. and James W. Reid and Frank P. Hall.

Gastonia has always been a community where the leading men and women are active Christian men and women, said the late W. F. Marshall, once principal of the old Gaston Institute, editor and owner of The Gastonia Gazette.



*The Boy Scout Building*



and at the time of his death on the staff of The Progressive Farmer in Raleigh. In the late 1930s he wrote a series of articles on the early history of some of the Gastonia churches.

Concerning the beginnings of the First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, he wrote:

"As my mind runs back over the old days when Gaston county had more distilleries than cotton mills, there arises the recollection of the stoutness of men like Rev. W. E. McIlwaine, who were set for putting an end to the legalized liquor traffic. As a leader in questions of public morals, he had not only the confidence of his own Presbyterian people, but the confidence of the people of all denominations. So well posted was he on prohibition laws, facts and figures, that before legislative committees his adversaries were disposed of effectively and in short order. In those days the Christian pastors and their denominations were a powerfully influential factor in starting a town right.

"It would be interesting to trace the beginnings of and growth of all the denominations that have contributed to making Gastonia's fine character what it is; but that is too much of a task for the present writer. I think, however, it is highly important that every church see to the preparation of an adequate history of itself. Under the circumstances, I shall just content myself with an account of the building of the first little Presbyterian church north of the depot 50-odd years ago and of the Presbyterian church on Marietta street, built in 1896 as a mere chapter in the church history of Gastonia.

"When I came to Gastonia in August, 1890, the Presbyterian church was a block north of the depot, on the other side of the street and facing south. It was a pretty structure, 35 x 50 feet, with a seating capacity of 400. It was built at a cost of \$1,500, all of which was promptly paid by the small congregation except \$100 from Mecklenburg Presbytery and \$35 from friends in Charlotte. It was built in 1882 and 1883, and was occupied until the new church on Marietta Street was ready Sunday, February 2, 1896." Mr. Marshall then followed with the history of the church.

The suggestion of Mr. Marshall that every church ought to be preserving and writing its history is one that the author of this volume would particularly emphasize, too. Much valuable history of this church has been lost through the years by neglect and carelessness.

## PICTURE OF EARLY DAYS IN OLNEY AND GASTONIA CHURCHES

An interesting and intimate picture of life in the early days of the church is here included in extracts from a letter by Dr. J. W. Corbett, son of Rev. W. B. Corbett, pastor of Olney in the late 1870s and first supply pastor of the Gastonia church organized in 1882.

The letter from Dr. Corbett, a retired physician of Camden, S. C., was written in response to an invitation in July, 1943, from the Olney congregation to any of the descendants of the Rev. W. B. Corbett to attend the 150th anniversary of the founding of the church. Dr. Corbett wrote that he was 80 years of age, had retired from the active practice of medicine, after 55 years, was an invalid and unable to attend the celebration. He stated that his father had died in 1894. Unable to attend, he sent words of greeting to Elder E. P. Lineberger, of the Olney Church, to be read at the services of the day.

His description of life in those days in Olney and in Gastonia and his references to several characters who figured in the early life of the church and community, are so interesting and pertinent that it was thought wise to include extracts from his letter in this chapter of interesting incidents and reminiscences of the Gastonia church. Several paragraphs from his letter follow:

"While my father was buying and building, the family lived in Yorkville in 1876. The house which was to be our home for several years, was erected between Olney Church and the roadbed of the Chester and Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railroad on which the rails were being laid. At the same time they were finishing the laying of rails on the Charlotte and Atlanta Air Line division of the Richmond and Danville road. A joint agency was soon established with the Pages

for the Air Line and the Fayssoux from Yorkville for the Narrow Gauge. The Pages were brothers from Marietta, Ga., and the Fayssoux crowd was composed of father and two sons; and the favorite pastime, there being no business at first except the shipment of many barrels of corn whiskey from the many stills in Gaston County, was a game called Dom Pedre. Later Mr. J. Q. Holland and my father established the First Church at Gastonia, and Mr. Holland opened the first store, a short distance south of the depot. Not very long afterward Dr. Bob Adams from Bethel opened a drug store.

"Our postoffice was Pleasant Ridge, where there was the store of J. R. Falls and son, the management being in the hands of one of my most intimate friends, George Falls, and sometimes he had me to help him with books and collections. The custom was in those days for the customers to come to the store early in the morning and talk and walk around, and not beginning to buy until late, when there would be a rush. A Portuguese by the name of Revel occupied the back room, and had his shoe shop there. He was also the night caretaker.

"I had many friends among the Huffstetlers, Fronebergers, Ledbetters, Falls, and not to miss Meek Crawford, who had the finest four-mule team I have ever seen. I used to ride with him some, particularly when he was hauling Barytes, which I found on enquiry was used for adulterating sugar. We would ride the two wheel mules, and have a picnic lunch; fine for a small boy like me.

"I remember well old Olney, and the two sermons every other Sunday, with an intermission between for eats. When time for the second sermon someone would beat on the wall of the church with a switch, and they would all return to their seats. The singing was fine; singing schools all over the country were very common then, and they used the old time shaped notes. Mr. W. I. Stowe led in the singing, after sounding the chord. Mr. Joe Kincaid was the leading elder of the church and lived only a short distance up the road towards Gastonia. Others I remember well: Mr. Dave Walker and his wife, who lost their only child, a son, at a saw mill accident; he lived just below Pleasant Ridge at the



fork, where his shop was; the three McCallister sisters were very kind to me; Dr. Torrence at Crowder's Creek, Capt. J. K. Marshall, the Narrow Gauge conductor, Bill Jones, the other one, and Supt. E. E. Thomas were at all times nice to me.

"In those days there was nothing at all between Pleasant Ridge and the joint agency at Gastonia, except the trestle over Catawba Creek, about half way; so when I passed there about twenty-five years after, looking for my old home, I was lost for awhile. A street car line extended to the old crossing on the railroad track west of Olney, and it was so built up with houses, I had trouble in finding the old home. I enjoyed looking at the old church, the cemetery with the row of cenotaphs, and even went down to the spring. But it was all strange and crowded out by the building of the community. I felt frankly disappointed. On this same trip, going further south, I stopped at the fork, and saw Mr. and Mrs. Walker on their piazza, and was recognized, though he was at that time totally blind.

"I have neglected to mention an old lady, Mrs. Sarah Ann Thomas, and her daughter, Louisa. Mrs. Thomas was always around if she heard of sickness or trouble. Another lady always considerate of me was Mrs. Jackson Falls, whose daughter married a dentist by the name of Glenn. She lived near Pleasant Ridge, just across the branch. I could go on a long time telling of trips to Kings Mountain Pinnacle, and the cave just below the Pinnacle full of rattle snakes; a pleasant visit to Shiloh Camp Ground, which was just north of Gastonia, near the rather modern home of Mr. Jenkins. People lived for weeks at this camp ground, with three or four sermons a day.

"All the time I lived at Pleasant Ridge was spent in my father tutoring me in arts and also in medicine. I worked for a short time at a saw mill run by Crow & Bean, a mile or so from my home. My father kept bees and I helped with the building of hives, frames for same, and looked after the horse and cow.

"This is too long for the public to use, but you and some of the older men of the community may be interested. It has brought back to me a great many pleasant recollections of the kindest hearted people on the face of the earth.

## CHAPTER XII

### *Outpost Work of Church*

#### ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN

About the year 1911 the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia began congregational mission work in the various sections of the city. Dr. C. E. Adams, an elder in this church, was busy organizing and conducting afternoon Sunday schools, and one of these was in the Clara-Dunn-Armstrong community, and another in the Osceola community in the southeastern part of the city.

For a number of years the Sunday school had an uncertain existence, as all afternoon schools do, but this good man seemed never to lose interest and quite a few members were brought into the First Church from these two schools. Some of the faithful teachers who helped Dr. Adams in these Sunday Schools were Misses Bertha McLean, Lois Freeman, Johnsie Adams, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Reid, Mr. Gilmer Winget, Prof. W. P. Grier, Dr. C. J. McCombs, Miss Lottie Warren, Mrs. J. Y. Miller, and Mrs. W. F. Kincaid. Mr. J. F. Jackson was superintendent of the Clara Sunday School after Dr. Adams organized the Sunday School in the Osceola community.

On November 19, 1916 the session of the First Church elected Dr. C. E. Adams, Mr. F. L. Smyre, and Rev. J. H. Henderlite, who, as a committee reported on December 3, that a suitable lot had been chosen and they were instructed by the session to secure the deed for the property.

In the fall of 1918 the session of the First Church issued a call to Rev. George R. Gillespie as assistant pastor to do city mission work. When he reached Gastonia the city was in the midst of the influenza epidemic, and by his untiring and sacrificial work among the sick he won his way into the hearts of the people in this section of the city to such an extent that the session decided on February 19, 1919

to erect a house of worship on the lot secured two years previously, as the Old Clara Hall and the Osceola community house had long since become inadequate.

The congregation of the First Church selected the Messrs. C. B. Armstrong, J. O. Rankin, W. T. Love, and Dr. H. M. Eddleman as the building committee. The First Church's congregation and interested individuals living in the South Broad Street and Osceola communities pledged and gave liberally to the building fund.

The present church building was erected in 1920 and the corner stone bearing the name "South Broad Street Church" was laid. After the death of Col. C. B. Armstrong his family desired that the church building might stand as a living monument to his memory and paid the entire debt remaining on the church building, thus cancelling all undue and unpaid pledges. The name of the South Broad Street Presbyterian Church was then changed to the C. B. Armstrong Memorial Presbyterian Church and was formally dedicated on February 15, 1921. The organization ran as a mission church under the care of Rev. Mr. Gillespie for two years. The Presbyterians of the Clara, Osceola, and South Broad Street communities united as one congregation in the new church building.

The minutes of the Kings Mountain Presbytery, meeting at Cherryville, N. C. on April 10, 1923 state: "the Commission to organize a church at the Armstrong Memorial Chapel reported a church organized on March 25, 1923, to be known as the Charles B. Armstrong Memorial Presbyterian Church. Five elders and eleven deacons were elected and installed." At the same meeting of Presbytery the call of this church was placed in the hands of Rev. Mr. Gillespie.

As there is some difference as to the charter members, (the records being lost) we can only give the official list of those voting for the organization of this new church. A few people wanted the chapel to remain a mission church under the care of the mother church. The First Church's session encouraged this congregation to organize into a separate church.

The following persons voted for the new church organization:

Ruth Ward, Perman Adams, Ruby Smith, Viola Wimpey, Kathlene Carothers, J. E. Huffstetler, Mrs. H. C. McFee, Irva Cornwell, Elanora Gillespie, Jennie Cornwell, Ruth Gillespie, J. C. Morrow, Lois Freeman, R. L. Dameron, Joe Tugman, J. M. Bridgeman, L. P. Albright, I. E. Kincaid, Mrs. W. S. Huffstetler, Bertie Kincaid, Georgia Smith, W. S. Huffstetler, Bessie Castle, Bertie Crumm, Earl Huffstetler, D. M. Harkey, Mrs. Mary Smith, Aldrich Myers, Howard Smith, Lottie Castle, Mrs. W. B. Smith, Mrs. Wylie Hanna, Ralph Webb, B. J. Alexander, Will Henderson, Ruby Stillwell, Mrs. C. P. Johnson, C. P. Johnson, J. A. Lisle, John Mays, Paul Kincaid, J. A. Summey, Mary Cornwell, Haskell Huffstetler, L. E. Kincaid, Charlie Ward, Henry Dameron, Mrs. J. A. Lisle.

Ruling elders elected and ordained in the new organization were H. C. McFee, R. L. Dameron, J. A. Lisle, J. N. Lay, and L. E. Kincaid. Elder McFee was Sunday School Superintendent, and L. E. Kincaid, clerk of the session. The following have, or are serving as elders: H. C. McFee, R. L. Dameron, J. A. Lisle, J. N. Lay, L. E. Kincaid, G. E. Pearson, H. W. Albright, Joe Hamilton, D. M. Harkey, J. R. Huffstetler, H. M. Hunt, E. R. Lineberger, J. C. Morrow, T. M. Oates, J. D. Roberts, and C. K. Ward.

The following have been superintendent of Sunday School: H. C. McFee, L. E. Kincaid, J. E. Huffstetler, H. W. Albright, J. R. Huffstetler and G. R. Quinn.

The following ministers have served the church:

George R. Gillespie, pastor, October 1918 to September 1924. During his pastorate the present building was erected and the church organized.

Mr. Gillespie died at the age of 80 years February 12, 1948, and was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in Gastonia. The pastors of Armstrong Memorial, West Avenue and the First Presbyterian Churches had charge of the funeral services, which were held in Armstrong Memorial Church on Sunday, February 15.

J. A. McFall, student supply pastor, November 1924 to May 1925.



J. H. Dulin, pastor, May 1925 to August 1942. During this long ministry of 17 years the membership grew from 130 to 219. In October 1927 Dr. William Black, Synodical evangelist was used of God to lead a genuine revival and 40 persons were received into the church on profession of faith. The new manse was erected under the leadership of Rev. Mr. Dulin.

W. W. Akers, supply pastor, September 1942 to February 1943. The debt on the manse and furnace was liquidated during this short ministry.

W. C. Cooper, pastor, February 1943 to date. The membership has grown from 219 to 330 in less than three years and the following improvements have been made to the property: Purchase of lot adjoining the manse, landscaping of manse and church grounds, renovation of church building, new pews, new stained glass windows, of which, one is a memorial to Dr. C. E. Adams, superintendent of the Sunday School in the earlier days, and one to Rev. J. H. Henderlite, pastor of the mother church during the infant days of this church's existence. Both windows were given by the congregation, and a new vestibule and belfry with bell, electric tower chimes, a pipe organ, and cathedral chimes, without debt.

## WEST AVENUE CHURCH

The First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia now has three healthy grown daughters and one grand-daughter. The colonizing spirit has been foremost in this church particularly so in the past few years when two churches were organized: Adams Memorial in East Gastonia and Northside Church in the Jenkins Heights section.

The latter is really a daughter of West Avenue Church since 17 members of the latter church withdrew to form the new congregation of Northside.

The two oldest daughters of the First Church are the West Avenue Church, formerly known as the Loray Church, and the Armstrong Memorial Church on South Broad Street. Both these churches, as well as the two younger, grew out of Sunday School mission points established and conducted by members of the First Church and West Avenue Church.

From the records of 1906 we learn that a committee was named by the session of the First Church, on September 29, consisting of Dr. C. E. Adams, F. A. Costner, J. Q. Holland, J. F. Jackson, to confer with the Presbyterians in the Loray community with a view to organizing a Sunday School. On October 21, 1906 this committee reported that they had organized a Sunday School with Mr. Ed Lewis as superintendent and W. I. Stowe as assistant and Mr. Lynch as secretary and treasurer.

The work at the Loray Church continued to grow. Mr. John Frank Jackson also acted as superintendent. On February 14, 1907, Rev. R. C. Anderson, the pastor, and Messrs. G. W. Ragan and T. W. Wilson were named a committee to see about a supply for the Loray Church. In March the committee reported that they had secured the services of Rev. A. S. Anderson, who had come down and preached for the congregation, that he had been well pleased with the outlook, and that the congregation had liked him. He was promised a home and a salary of \$800. a year.

Earlier in the year 1906, on February 5, a committee consisting of Rev. R. C. Anderson, and elders C. E. Adams, G. W. Ragan and A. M. Smyre had been named to confer with the Loray Mill authorities relative to securing a lot in that section.

On February 9, the committee reported that the authorities of the mill had offered to donate a lot fronting 100 feet on Franklin Avenue and extending 150 feet deep, "nearly in front of the Loray Mill for the purpose of building a Presbyterian church." The statement was made by the moderator that Mr. T. E. Moore, one of the chief officials of the Loray Mill, had offered on the part of the mill to give a dollar for every dollar raised by the church to the amount of one thousand dollars for the purpose of building a Presbyterian church in the Loray settlement.

The offer of the Loray Mill was accepted and it was further resolved that the church go ahead with the plans for building a church in that community. Messrs. G. W. Ragan, C. E. Adams and J. Lee Robinson were named a building committee.

On April 11, 1907 the committee reported that the Loray Church building had been completed, including the seats and painting and the moving of the old building off the lot at a cost of \$2,718.38. A vote of thanks was extended to the committee for their faithful work and for the low cost they had incurred.

On September 15, 1907 at a meeting of the session of the First Church a list of members asked for letters of dismissal to the Loray Church, thus becoming charter members of that church. They were as follows, 34 in number: Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Lewis, H. J. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Biggs, J. A. Cathey, Miss Effie Cathey, Mrs. E. W. Fite, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Dilling, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Shan-Smith Howe, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Maner, Mrs. Cynthia Dailey, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Glenn, Mr. and Mrs. George K. Tate, Mrs. J. N. Smith, Misses Minnie and Bessie Smith, Mrs. A. H. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ladd, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Wallace.

On the afternoon of September 15, 1907, Kings Mountain Presbytery met in adjourned session in the new Loray Church and there the new church was officially organized. W. F. Bradley, J. L. Glenn, S. A. Lewis, and H. J. Shannon were elected elders and J. N. Biggs, E. L. Lewis, C. G. Lynch, and M. A. Shannon were elected deacons. Rev. A. S. Anderson served from this date to July 15, 1912. The church was without a regular pastor until August 1, 1913 when Mr. J. A. Satterfield, who seems to have been preparing himself for the Gospel ministry, served as a supply for three or four months.

Rev. K. A. Campbell was the second pastor, serving from August 1, 1913 to April 13, 1915. Upon the expiration of his pastorate efforts were made to secure the services of Rev. A. S. Anderson again but he declined.

Rev. W. J. Roach was the third pastor, serving from September 1915 to February, 1916 as stated supply and from February, 1916 to May 25, 1920 as pastor.

Rev. R. C. Long was fourth pastor. Under his pastorate the name of the church was changed from Loray to West Avenue. During this time the church enlarged its plant by

the addition of seven rooms, re-covered the church and painted the inside. There was a large increase in membership during Mr. Long's pastorate. The membership increased from 94 to 240.

Rev. J. T. Pharr, the fifth pastor, served from January 14, 1924 to March 6, 1925. Six months intervened before the sixth pastor took over.

Rev. R. J. Hunter served from April 14, 1926 to May 1, 1940. It was during his pastorate that Gastonia suffered from the Fred Beal strike in 1929. Many of the episodes took place right around the church. His was a long and faithful pastorate until his health began to fail and he reached the age of retirement. Even after his retirement he preached for three years.

Rev. W. C. Neel, the sixth pastor, began his service with the church September 24, 1940. In May, 1941 other additions were made to the church consisting of a large room for the young people and an adjoining kitchen. On January 6, 1943, the session indorsed the work of the Northside Chapel and a provisional session consisting of O. L. Rhyne, H. W. Counts and W. S. Spencer was named to have oversight of the chapel. On September 15, 1943, thirty-six years to the day from the time of the organization of the West Avenue Church, 17 members were dismissed from West Avenue to Northside.

The work of the church under the present pastor, Rev. W. C. Neel is growing and expanding. It is one of the most progressive charges in Kings Mountain Presbytery.

## ADAMS MEMORIAL

Adams Memorial, another of the daughters of the First Church, was organized April 27, 1947 by a commission from Kings Mountain Presbytery. The chapel building which stands on the corner of Ozark avenue and Piedmont street, was built by the First Church in 1942. It was named Adams Memorial for the late Dr. C. E. Adams, whose pioneer work in that section of the city led to the establishment of a Sunday school and later the church. He



started a Sunday school in that part of town in 1922. He is more or less directly responsible, not only for Adams Memorial, but also for Armstrong Memorial.

The work in the Ozark community was started in a store building now used as a residence. Later it was moved to a house on Cedar Street. This building was given by Mr. W. F. Kincaid. Dr. Adams was assisted by his daughter, Miss Johnsie, now Mrs. R. M. Johnston, who acted as pianist and teacher in the mission school.

In 1929 Dr. Adams was assisted by Miss Ola Moton, later a city missionary, who was the leading spirit in keeping the work alive. In April 1938 Mrs. George V. Patterson, who had been doing mission work at Spencer Mountain, and also assisting in the work at Ozark, asked Rev. I. M. Ellis, then assistant pastor of the First Church, to preach at the Ozark mission. Mr. Ellis became much interested in the work, having a vision of what might result from this mission school. It was through his efforts that the first members were received into the church. He continued Sunday afternoon preaching service until the coming of Rev. Troy Young in the spring of 1943. At this time Adams Memorial was linked with two other chapels, Piedmont and Northside. The session of the First Church in the fall of 1938 appointed Mr. J. A. Whitfield superintendent who did an outstanding work in that community until his untimely death. His indomitable spirit and firm conviction that the Lord had a purpose in his work carried the church along over many obstacles.

In 1944, Rev. C. L. Cheshire began his work in Gastonia as assistant to the pastor, Rev. Mr. Ellis, in charge of outpost work. He was called to the pastorate two years later and served until November 1, 1947 when he resigned to accept the pastorate of the Second Presbyterian Church of Burlington. During his pastorate the membership of the church grew until it reached 117 from a modest 40 or less. He did a fine work, both here and at Northside, which two churches he served on a half time basis, until Adams Memorial called him for full time.

Rev. Gordon MacPherson, a graduate of Columbia Seminary, succeeded Mr. Cheshire. He is a native of Massachus-

etts, and served in the U. S. Navy during World War II.

Northside was served as supply by Rev. Earl Shannon until September 1947 when Rev. Troy Young, a former pastor, was called. He is doing a fine job at this new church northwest of Gastonia in a promising field.

## NORTHSIDE PRESBYTERIAN

Northside Presbyterian Church, daughter of West Avenue, and it may be said, a grand-daughter of the First Presbyterian Church, was organized September 15, 1943 with 17 members from West Avenue Church and a few others from the surrounding community, recruited from various denominations as the charter members. O. L. Rhyne, H. W. Counts and W. S. Spencer, of the West Avenue Church, formed a provisional session.

The work at Northside Church had its beginning in Sunday afternoon Sunday schools, first conducted by Miss Ola Moton, city missionary, employed by several congregations of the city to do missionary work among some of the neglected sections. She did a fine work among people who had not been reached by the organized churches.

The first building, a rude sort of frame structure, was erected largely through the efforts of Miss Moton, who solicited funds for it from many sources in the city, and from Jenkins Heights people. It was first planned as a community church but the Baptists withdrew, and organized a church of their own. This set O. L. Rhyne and H. W. Counts to thinking, and they went to work with a will to start a Presbyterian church. They carried on the work started by Miss Moton, with the aid of other teachers from West Avenue and from the First Church. The work grew and more pupils were added until it was decided to organize a separate church with the results as stated above.

In the meantime, agitation for a new church building got underway and the present structure is the result. Members of the First Presbyterian Church aided materially in the building of the new church by substantial gifts. A handsome and modern manse followed and the First Presbyterian Church contributed substantially to the cost of

this house. One outright contribution of \$1,500 from the First Church aided materially in putting the project across toward the end.

The first pastor was Rev. Troy Young, who came from Western North Carolina, served a year and had to resign on account of his health. Rev. C. L. Cheshire, who had come to the First Church as assistant and pastor in charge of the outpost work, was the next preacher. He was the first occupant of the new manse. He remained two years until he resigned to accept full time work as pastor of Adams Memorial Church and Piedmont Chapel. Under his ministry, many members were added and the work of the church greatly enlarged. During the interim between the coming of Rev. Troy Young for a second time, the church was supplied by Earl Shannon, a member of West Avenue Church. Rev. Mr. Young came to the pastorate for the second time in September, 1947, and at the time this history was written, was doing a most commendable work. His health has shown marked improvement since he was here four years ago.

## PIEDMONT CHAPEL

Work in the northern part of Gastonia, now centered about what is known as Piedmont Chapel, had its origin in 1909, what was then known as the Holland Mill.

It is noted from the records of the session of February 25, 1912, that the session voted to accept an offer of the Holland Mill for a lot on which to build a chapel, the chapel to be built with money raised by Leon T. and Robert C. McLean. At a later meeting of the session, a building committee was named, consisting of Messrs. L. T. and R. C. McLean, and A. C. Jones from the session and J. Lee Robinson, from the board of deacons. In June, 1912, Mr. J. W. Timberlake took charge of the Holland Mill work and continued it for several years. The late R. C. Patrick also was superintendent of the Piedmont Sunday school for a number of years. There have been others. Elder L. J. Shive was in charge for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommie F. Dickson are now in charge of the work. An account of the beginning of the work under

Miss Alice Daniel will be found on another page of this volume.

During the pastorate of Rev. C. L. Cheshire, regular services were conducted at the chapel, in connection with the work at Adams Memorial Church.

Among those who were very prominent and zealous in the work at Piedmont Chapel was Mrs. H. D. Shackelford, who taught school at the Piedmont during the week, and was leader of the Sunday school on Sundays. Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Ramseur also had a prominent part in the development of the work at Piedmont. Efforts are underway to build a new chapel at the Piedmont and a handsome gift of \$1,000 has been received from the Smyre family toward the building fund, which now has almost \$3,000. in its savings account.



## In Memoriam

Fred W. Spurrier, Jr.

Alfred Kendrick

Frank Starnes

Eugene Matthews

Thomas A. Ratchford

John Frank Loftin

John O. Rankin, III

Harold Martin

## CHAPTER XIII

### *War Record of Church*

This church furnished some 25 or 30 men to the First World War, 1917-1918, and the accompanying list is as correct as far as we can ascertain. For some reason or other, no complete roster of the boys who went from this church 30 years ago was kept, or else has been lost. The list as best as can be made up is as follows:

J. Leonard Curry, T. J. Abernethy, Lacy E. Adams, Charles W. Adams, J. Raleigh Armstrong, Harry Bradley, Dr. R. S. Clinton, Harry Cobb, James W. Holland, Henry M. Rankin, Chester Rankin, John O. Rankin, Jr., R. L. Todd, Thomas Lee Wilson, Will Nolen, Ernest Warren, Dr. Ralph Ray, W. T. Rankin, Steve Morris, Leland Morris, Fred Rhyne, Otto Rhyne, Edwin Costner, John Hunter, Dr. W. B. Hunter, and Charles M. Robinson.

Veterans of the Spanish-American War are V. G. Grier, T. E. Leavitt, and S. A. Kindley.

Charles W. Adams, son of Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Adams, died in camp. Will Nolen also died in camp. These are the only two casualties from World War I, so far as can be found.

James W. Holland, a member of Company "D", 105th Engineers, of the 30th Division, the Old Hickory outfit, son of Captain J. Q. Holland, was one of the most decorated men of the war. He received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart, and the British Medal of Valor, bestowed upon him by the Duke of Windsor. The 30th Division to which he belonged, helped break the Hindenburg line in September, 1918.

There have been added to the church roll many other men who were veterans of the First World War and it is impossible to list them accurately and completely. There are dozens of men who have joined business and professional firms in Gastonia since the end of the First War

and are valuable members of our church. The aim here has been to list only those men who were enrolled as members of the First Presbyterian Church at the time they served in the army, navy or marine corps in 1917-1918.

When the Second World War broke with the tragedy of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the boys of the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia again answered the call to arms, and scores enrolled in the service of their country, some in the army, the navy, air corps, marine corps, coast guard and other branches of the service.

They served in every part of the globe, in the European, the Pacific and in the China-Burma-India theaters of operations. They were at Anzio and at Cherbourg, in the Hurtgen Forest and in the Battle of the Bulge, they fought in New Zealand and in the battle of Midway, at Okinawa and Tarawa, in the Philippines, on Iwo Jima, at Saipan, Guadalcanal, and Salerno. Some of the boys from this church laid down their lives in some of the above fields of action. Some died on home shores. Some lie buried on foreign soil that will ever be a part of America as long as a grateful nation lives. Some will be brought home to rest amid familiar scenes in family burial plots.

The people of this church threw themselves into the service of their country with whole-hearted enthusiasm and a holy zeal. Soldiers who were on maneuvers or in camp near Gastonia, were entertained in the church and in the homes of the people. Many packages of first aid and Red Cross material were prepared and sent to the boys in camp. Days of prayer for the success of our armed forces were held, with many people taking part. With the coming of V-J Day the joy and happiness of our people knew no bounds.

Those from this church who paid the supreme sacrifice, and for whom a gold star adorns our church service flag, were Fred W. Spurrier, Alfred Kendrick, Frank Starnes, Eugene Matthews, Thomas A. Ratchford, John Frank Loftin, Harold Martin and John O. Rankin, III.

Fred W. Spurrier, Jr., aged 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Spurrier was killed in action on the island of Mindanao, in the Philippines, May 10, 1945. He was a member of the

24th Infantry Division. Young Spurrier, one of the most promising young men of the church, had been inducted into the army in December, 1943. He spent a year in training camps in this country and sailed for overseas duty in December, 1944. His father is an elder in the church.

Alfred Kendrick, 29, son of another elder, James L. Kendrick, and Mrs. Kendrick, was killed in an airplane crash near Norfolk, Va., January 22, 1944. He was a member of the Civil Air Patrol and was engaged in the patrol of the coastal waters of Virginia and North Carolina. He was taking off in his plane from the airport when the accident occurred.

Frank Starnes, 23, son of Mrs. Dora Starnes and the late J. F. Starnes, was killed in action in Belgium February 15, 1945, as a member of an infantry outfit of the U. S. Army. He had spent two years in the army.

Eugene R. Matthews, son of an elder, J. H. Matthews, and Mrs. J. H. Matthews, died March 11, 1945, by drowning in Lake Como, Miss., while boating with some army and civilian friends. He enlisted December 1, 1942, and had attained high rank as an inspector with the QM Department of the army. His headquarters was at Camp Lee, Va.

Thomas A. Ratchford, 30, son of Mrs. Ratchford, and the late T. A. Ratchford, was killed in action on the island of Saipan July 1, 1944, as a member of a medical detachment of the army. One of his duties was that of removing wounded soldiers from the battle field. He served in the army three years, and had been stationed in Honolulu for 27 months before being transferred to Saipan.

John Frank Loftin, 30, son of an elder, the late C. I. Loftin, and Mrs. Loftin, died in Gastonia, January 31, 1945, from an operation following his discharge from the U. S. Navy for illness, July 1944. He had enlisted in the navy in January, 1944, had been commissioned an ensign in April and was hospitalized soon after. He was discharged in July, 1944.

Harold Martin, member of the U. S. Air Corps, was reported missing in action over the Kurile Islands June 16, 1945. He had been based in the Aleutians. Lieutenant Mar-



tin married Miss Juanita Jones, a member of this congregation, a year or two before he was lost. He was a native of Baltimore, Md. He joined this church soon after his marriage to Miss Jones.

John O. Rankin, III, member of the Sixth Marines, died of wounds received on the island of Okinawa, June 23, 1945. He had volunteered for the marine corps before Pearl Harbor and spent several months at Parris Island, S. C. He was the grandson of another elder in this church, John O. Rankin, Sr.

The above named heroes from this church who gave their lives for their country, will forever be enshrined in the memories of the people of the First Presbyterian Church and of the city of Gastonia. Their names will live forever in letters of golden light in the hearts of a grateful people. Suitable and appropriate memorial ceremonies were held for those of the above who died away from home, and the sympathies of a sorrowing congregation were extended to the bereaved survivors.

The complete roster of those who went from this church is as follows:

### A

Abernathy, Pfc. Robert S.  
Abernathy, Lt. Thos. J., Jr.  
Abernathy, Lt. William E.  
Adams, David S. F 1/c, (MoMM)  
Adams, Lacy E. (Merch. Marine)  
Adams, Robert Lee, S 1/c  
Adams, Simeon Huey, S 1/c  
Armstrong, Lt. Arthur A., Jr.  
Axon, Cpl. James C.

### B

Bindeman, Pfc. Wylie W., Jr.  
Boren, Cpl. Charles K.  
Boyd, Frank, MoMM 1/c  
Bradford, Isabel M., Y 3/c  
Bradley, Cpl. C. D.  
Bradley, William, S 2/c  
Brison, T/Sgt. John E., Jr.  
Brockman, Thos. M., Jr., MM 2/c  
Bull, S/Sgt. Clifford T.

Bull, Pfc. J. Ralph, Jr.  
Bustle, Harold A., Sp. (P), 3/c  
Belton, William D., Jr.

### C

Carroll, Lt. Walter J.  
Currence, Lt. John L.  
Currence, Lt. Robert Brandon  
Clemmer, SPS 1/c Audrey  
Clemmer, SM 2/c Edgar F.  
Combs, Paul D., Y 2/c

### D

Davidson, Pvt. William M.  
Davis, A/C Donald H.  
Dickson, Lt. B. T., Jr.  
Dickson, S/Sgt. Tommie F.  
Dickson, EM 3/c Walter W.  
Dunn, Cpl. A. W., Jr.

### E

Erlewein, Paul L.

**F**

Falls, Cpl. John Rankin  
Falls, George Worth  
Falls, Miss Rebecca, ARC  
Fant, T/5 James H.  
Ferguson, Cpl. Alvin L.  
Ferguson, Alfred F.  
Ferguson, Chas. M., Jr., AMM 2/c  
Ferguson, John A.  
Filipponi, Pfc. Mervyn L.  
Findlay, Capt. James H.  
Ford, Pfc. William H.  
Froneberger, Sgt. A. Kenneth

**G**

Gardner, Pvt. Warren Y., Jr.  
Garland, Lt. James Boyce  
Garland, Lt.-Col. P. W., Jr.  
Glenn, Pvt. John David  
Glenn, Sgt. Robert Ray  
Grier, Cpl. Robert A.  
Grier, Roger M., CPO  
Grier, Pfc. Thomas G.  
Grigg, M/Sgt. Charles L.  
Grigg, Pvt. William G.  
Gillespie, Lt. David E.

**H**

Harrison, S/Sgt. Wiley T. (Ted)  
Hawkins, Charles B., S 1/c  
Hawkins, Sgt. William Lewis  
Henderlite, Lt. James H.  
Henderson, Pvt. Richard H.  
Hood, Pvt. Robert H.  
Hood, Miss Ruth M., Cadet Nurse  
Hood, William B., S 2/c  
Howe, Dan Charlton  
Howe, Cpl. James L.  
Howe, Sgt. Wayne  
Huffstetler, Sgt. Cooper Ashley  
Huffstetler, Cpl. Lawrence N.  
Humphrey, Pfc. James L.  
Hunter, J. A., Jr., Merch. Marine  
Hunter, James Robert  
Humphrey, Clyde

**J**

Jackson, S/Sgt. Herbert C.  
Jackson, SKD 2/c John Alfred

Jones, T/5 A. C., Jr.  
Jones, T/5 James Latimer  
Jones, Cpl. Laurence G.  
Jones, Pvt. David Andrew

**K**

Kelly, Capt. Roy W. (Bill)  
Kelly, F/O Robert Yocum  
Kendrick, John R., Jr., AOM, 3/c  
Kendrick, Cpl. Martha L.  
Kimbrell, F/O Curtis C., Jr.  
Kimbrell, Cpl. W. Duke  
King, Pfc. Allen G., Jr.  
Kendrick, Lt. Alfred  
Kincaid, Robert  
Kincaid, Paul P., Jr., A/S

**L**

Lawson, Major W. D.  
Lawson, Lt. W. D., III  
Leeper, Dr. Ned  
Leeper, Cpl. Joseph S.  
Lineberger, Pfc. H. Price, Jr.  
Loftin, Ens. John Frank  
Love, Cpl. Sam D.  
Love, Lt. William T., Jr.

**M**

Matthews, Sgt. Eugene R.  
Matthews, Pvt. J. Houston, Jr.  
Martin, Lt. Harold E.  
McCarter, S 2/c Donald  
McKay, Samuel, Jr., S. F. 3/c  
McKee, Sgt. James Frank  
McKee, Sgt. William F.  
McQueen, Cpl. David A.  
Michael, Cpl. Spencer  
Miller, T/5 Dossie K.  
Miller, Pvt. Mary W.  
Mingus, Pvt. Gene H.  
Mingus, S/Sgt. W. T., Jr.  
Moore, Pfc. J. Stoney  
McConnell, Lt.-Col. Edward T.  
Morrow, Lt. J. Holland  
Mason, Eugene  
Melton, Joseph  
Murphy, Shannon  
McNair, James E., Jr.

**P**

Pack, Sgt. Stanley  
 Parrott, Edward M., S 1/c  
 Patrick, Lt. (jg) L. Neale, Jr.  
 Patrick, 1st/Sgt. R. C., Jr.  
 Patrick, Pvt. William M.  
 Patrick, William Henry, Jr.  
 Peden, Ens. John C.  
 Pressley, Cpl. Britton W., Jr.  
 Price, T/5 Willis A.  
 Patsch, Arthur W.  
 Pettus, Kell  
 Putnam, Samuel

**R**

Ragan, 1st/Sgt. D. P., Jr.  
 Ragan, T/Sgt. Daniel C.  
 Rankin, Sgt. James Thomas  
 Rankin, QM/Sgt. John O., III.  
 U. S. Marine Corps

Rankin, Sgt. Joseph T.  
 Rankin, Pvt. Robert W.  
 Rankin, Lt. Samuel A.  
 Ratchford, Robert E., AMM 2/c  
 Rhyne, Dane S., Jr., AMM 3/c  
 Rhyne, Pfc. Julius R.  
 Rhyne, Pfc. Malcolm S.  
 Riddle, Cpl. Fred D.  
 Robert, Pfc. C. E., Jr.  
 Robinson, Pfc. Amos Quentin  
 Robinson, Major J. Lee  
 Robinson, S 2/c Loyd  
 Robinson, M/Sgt. S. A., Jr.  
 Ratchford, Thomas A.  
 Robinson, Ens. Charles Mebane

**S**

Shelton, Pvt. Theodore L.  
 Shields, Capt. D. R., Jr.  
 Shive, Lt. Lowell A.  
 Shive, T/Sgt. Verne E.  
 Smyre, Lt. F. L., Jr.  
 Sowell, S/Sgt. L. Lewis  
 Spencer, Sgt. A. M., Jr.

Spurrier, Pfc. Fred W., Jr.  
 Spurrier, Pvt. Powell H.  
 Starnes, Blake Boyd (Billy) CMM  
 Starnes, Pvt. John Franklin  
 Sudduth, Pfc. Alvin L., Jr.  
 Sifford, William A.  
 Strange, Samuel O.

**T**

Talley, S Sgt. William T.  
 Tate, Cpl. Robah S.  
 Thompson, Capt. Thomas F.  
 Timberlake, Major J. W., Jr.  
 Thomas, Pvt. Hunter Elmore  
 Thomas, Pvt. Richard Earle  
 Tomlin, Miss Laura May, ARC  
 Tomlin, Capt. William H.  
 Taylor, J. Caswell  
 Taylor, James L.

**U**

Underwood, Lt. Clarence E.

**V**

Van Sleen, AMM 3/c Albert  
 Van Sleen, Pfc. Henry M., Jr.  
 Van Sleen, Lt. (jg) Robert  
 Virgin, Lt. Frank L.

**W**

Wakefield, Pvt. Archie, Jr.  
 Warren, Cpl. Wm. Y., Jr.  
 Wetzell, Lt. Charles A.  
 Whisnant, Lt. Edith K.  
 White, Lt. (jg) Hugh Edward  
 Whitesides, Pvt. Joseph Raymond  
 Wilkins, John A., Jr., S 2/c  
 Williford, Lt. Wade Hampton  
 Wilson, Cpl. Clyde A.  
 Workman, Pfc. Earle Caldwell  
 Workman, Pfc. Thomas Reese  
 Whitesides, William  
 Willcox, Jack A., Jr.

**Z**

Zeigler, A/C Charles E.

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

|                        |                                 |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Clemmer, Edgar F.      | Clemmer, William B.             | Miller, Jasper, Jr. |
| Clemmer, F. Kelly      | Clemmer, Henry A.               | Morris, Leland      |
| Clemmer, P. D.         | Craig, Robert                   | Sisk, James         |
| Humphrey, William, Jr. | Jarman, Wm. H., Lt., U. S. Navy |                     |

## CHAPTER XIV

### *Elders and Deacons*

Following is a list of men who have served as elders of the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia with the year they were elected:

|                      |      |                           |      |
|----------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| J. Q. Holland .....  | 1882 | H. F. Glenn .....         | 1926 |
| B. G. Bradley .....  | 1882 | T. W. Wilson .....        | 1926 |
| A. M. Smyre .....    | 1882 | S. A. Robinson .....      | 1926 |
| J. R. Shannon .....  | 1886 | J. W. Timberlake .....    | 1926 |
| R. H. Adams .....    | 1886 | R. C. Patrick .....       | 1926 |
| R. C. G. Love .....  | 1886 | J. L. Kendrick .....      | 1937 |
| C. E. Adams .....    | 1890 | C. I. Loftin .....        | 1937 |
| J. E. Page .....     | 1895 | L. N. Patrick .....       | 1937 |
| G. W. Ragan .....    | 1902 | C. E. Rhyne .....         | 1937 |
| F. A. Costner .....  | 1902 | H. M. McKelvie .....      | 1937 |
| J. R. Baber .....    | 1903 | Fred D. Riddle .....      | 1937 |
| J. A. Hunter .....   | 1903 | B. T. Dickson .....       | 1940 |
| J. F. Jackson .....  | 1903 | Ed C. Adams .....         | 1940 |
| J. F. Thompson ..... | 1911 | D. R. LaFar, Jr. ....     | 1940 |
| J. H. Kennedy .....  | 1911 | Charles S. Thompson ..... | 1940 |
| A. C. Jones .....    | 1911 | F. H. Upham .....         | 1940 |
| Harry Rutter .....   | 1911 | H. G. Winget .....        | 1940 |
| T. L. Craig .....    | 1919 | Quay D. Williford .....   | 1942 |
| P. W. Garland .....  | 1919 | R. A. Gordon .....        | 1942 |
| W. F. Kincaid .....  | 1919 | C C. Kimbrell .....       | 1942 |
| W. T. Love .....     | 1919 | H. A. Query .....         | 1942 |
| J. H. Matthews ..... | 1919 | E. J. Rankin .....        | 1942 |
| C. J. McCombs .....  | 1919 | C. J. Rhodes .....        | 1942 |
| J. O. Rankin .....   | 1919 | T. J. Abernathy .....     | 1946 |
| S. W. Patrick .....  | 1919 | Ralph H. Falls .....      | 1946 |
| R. R. Ray .....      | 1926 | Dane S. Rhyne .....       | 1946 |
| W. P. Moore .....    | 1926 | Fred W. Spurrier .....    | 1946 |
| J. H. Keller .....   | 1926 | L. Jerry Shive .....      | 1946 |
| F. L. Smyre .....    | 1926 | James G. Jackson .....    | 1946 |



## LIST OF MEN WHO HAVE SERVED AS DEACONS AND THE YEARS WHEN ELECTED

|                         |      |                             |      |
|-------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| Adams, Dr. R. H. ....   | 1882 | Armstrong, W. R. ....       | 1926 |
| Bell, R. H. ....        | 1882 | Douglas, B. E. ....         | 1926 |
| Bradley, William ....   | 1882 | Ford, Charles ....          | 1926 |
| Adams, Dr. C. E. ....   | 1884 | Gardner, W. Y. ....         | 1926 |
| Harper, R. T. ....      | 1886 | Grier, V. G. ....           | 1926 |
| Pegram, T. C. ....      | 1886 | Kendrick, J. L. ....        | 1926 |
| Ragan, G. W. ....       | 1886 | LaFar, Robertson ....       | 1926 |
| Costner, F. A. ....     | 1890 | Leavitt, T. E. ....         | 1926 |
| Glenn, E. F. ....       | 1890 | Lee, L. K. ....             | 1926 |
| Love, J. F. ....        | 1890 | Lineberger, H. P. ....      | 1926 |
| Curry, J. E. ....       | 1898 | Miller, Dr. O. L. ....      | 1926 |
| Hunter, J. A. ....      | 1898 | Patrick, W. H. ....         | 1926 |
| Robinson, J. Lee ....   | 1898 | Query, H. A. ....           | 1926 |
| Wilson, Thomas W. ....  | 1898 | Ragan, Caldwell ....        | 1926 |
| Baber, J. R. ....       | 1902 | Rankin, Rufus A. ....       | 1926 |
| Kennedy, J. H. ....     | 1902 | Rhyne, Coit E. ....         | 1926 |
| Warren, W. Y. ....      | 1902 | Ross, Charles ....          | 1926 |
| Bell, J. N. ....        | 1903 | Thompson, P. H. ....        | 1926 |
| Glenn, Dr. H. F. ....   | 1903 | White, Hugh E. ....         | 1926 |
| Kendrick, T. N. ....    | 1903 | Wilson, T. Henry ....       | 1926 |
| Page, D. A. ....        | 1903 | Wilson, T. L. ....          | 1926 |
| Rankin, E. J. ....      | 1903 | Wilson, W. L. ....          | 1926 |
| Robinson, S. A. ....    | 1903 | Winget, H. G. ....          | 1926 |
| White, J. O. ....       | 1903 | Adams, Minor R. ....        | 1934 |
| Armstrong, C. B. ....   | 1913 | Adams, T. C. ....           | 1934 |
| Craig, Thomas L. ....   | 1913 | Dickson, R. A. ....         | 1934 |
| Glenn, W. W. ....       | 1913 | Falls, Ralph ....           | 1934 |
| Loftin, C. I. ....      | 1913 | Ferguson, W. B. ....        | 1934 |
| Rankin, W. T. ....      | 1913 | Gordon, R. A. ....          | 1934 |
| Smyre, F. L. ....       | 1913 | Johnston, R. M., Jr. ....   | 1934 |
| Timberlake, J. W. ....  | 1913 | Lawson, W. D., Jr. ....     | 1934 |
| Winget, A. K. ....      | 1913 | McChesney, Dr. W. W. ....   | 1934 |
| Baber, O. O. ....       | 1919 | McLain, P. C. ....          | 1934 |
| Hunter, J. A., Jr. .... | 1919 | Michael, H. F. ....         | 1934 |
| Jackson, Rufus M. ....  | 1919 | Morrow, Norman ....         | 1934 |
| LaFar, D. R. ....       | 1919 | Ragan, D. P. ....           | 1934 |
| Marvin, George E. ....  | 1919 | Rhyne, M. S. ....           | 1934 |
| Patrick, R. C. ....     | 1919 | Roberts, Dr. W. M. ....     | 1934 |
| Ware, J. White ....     | 1919 | Shields, D. R. ....         | 1934 |
| Pegram, E. N. ....      | 1920 | Spurrier, P. H. ....        | 1934 |
| Ray, Dr  Ralph ....     | 1920 | Glenn, H. F., Jr. ....      | 1935 |
| Armstrong, C. C. ....   | 1921 | Henderlite, J. H., Jr. .... | 1935 |
| Adams, Ed C. ....       | 1926 | Jackson, James G. ....      | 1935 |
| Allen, Fred M. ....     | 1926 | Kimbrell, C. C. ....        | 1935 |

|                           |      |                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| Melvin, Adam J. ....      | 1935 | Williford, Quay D. ....   | 1941 |
| McKelvie, H. M. ....      | 1935 | Dunn, A. W. ....          | 1942 |
| Riddle, Fred D. ....      | 1935 | Faust, Lacy ....          | 1942 |
| Robinson, A. S. ....      | 1935 | Kendrick, Alfred ....     | 1942 |
| Torrence, C. K. ....      | 1935 | Loftin, J. F. ....        | 1942 |
| Brison, J. E. ....        | 1936 | Mackorell, T. M. ....     | 1942 |
| Caldwell, Paul ....       | 1936 | Pack, H. L. ....          | 1942 |
| Dickson, B. T. ....       | 1936 | Patrick, Ralph, Jr. ....  | 1942 |
| Kincaid, Gordon ....      | 1936 | Rosebro, Robert ....      | 1942 |
| Thompson, C. S. ....      | 1936 | Sherard, W. A. ....       | 1942 |
| Loftin, C. I., Jr. ....   | 1936 | Sparrow, W. R. ....       | 1942 |
| Cobb, Harry ....          | 1937 | Crawford, R. O. ....      | 1943 |
| Matthews, Henry ....      | 1937 | Kelly, R. J. ....         | 1943 |
| Moss, Charles A. ....     | 1937 | Matthews, O. P. ....      | 1943 |
| McCarter, Grady ....      | 1937 | McCarter, R. W. ....      | 1943 |
| Rhyne, D. S. ....         | 1937 | Riddle, John V. ....      | 1943 |
| Spurrier, Fred ....       | 1937 | Wetzell, W. L., Jr. ....  | 1943 |
| Stowe, S. A. ....         | 1937 | Clemmer, R. L. ....       | 1944 |
| Sudduth, A. L. ....       | 1937 | French, D. A. ....        | 1944 |
| Ratchford, J. R. ....     | 1937 | Starnes, Clarke R. ....   | 1944 |
| Todd, R. L. ....          | 1937 | McGerrigle, J. R. ....    | 1945 |
| Wilkins, J. A. ....       | 1937 | Ratchford, Fred A. ....   | 1945 |
| Bell, A. G., Jr. ....     | 1938 | Rhyne, Fred S. ....       | 1945 |
| Garrison, W. B. ....      | 1938 | Shive, L. J. ....         | 1945 |
| Robinson, Dr. J. Lee .... | 1938 | Akers, John M. ....       | 1946 |
| Barnett, Joseph L. ....   | 1939 | Daniel, W. A. ....        | 1946 |
| Riddle, Fred D., Jr. .... | 1939 | Kincaid, P. P. ....       | 1946 |
| Smyre, F. L., Jr. ....    | 1939 | Ratchford, G. Rufus ....  | 1946 |
| Thomas, C. G. ....        | 1939 | Wheeler, R. J. ....       | 1946 |
| Watson, T. Craig ....     | 1939 | Williford, Wade H. ....   | 1946 |
| White, H. Edward ....     | 1939 | Zeigler, Charles B. ....  | 1946 |
| Curry, J. Leonard ....    | 1940 | Garland, James Boyce .... | 1947 |
| Harmon, C. C. ....        | 1940 | Hollinger, Von W. ....    | 1947 |
| Julian, W. A. ....        | 1940 | Hood, Robert H. ....      | 1947 |
| McConnell, M. R. ....     | 1940 | Waters, Fred M. ....      | 1947 |
| Rutter, Lindley ....      | 1940 | Boyce, O. D., Dr. ....    | 1948 |
| Whitfield, J. A. ....     | 1940 | Gillespie, D. E. ....     | 1948 |
| Winget, J. S. ....        | 1940 | Jackson, Phil P. ....     | 1948 |
| Abernathy, T. J. ....     | 1941 | LaFar, Dan S. ....        | 1948 |
| Adams, W. C. ....         | 1941 | McKay, Samuel ....        | 1948 |
| Matthews, Eugene ....     | 1941 | Patrick, Wm., Dr. ....    | 1948 |
| Morrison, S. E. ....      | 1941 | Whisnant, H. P. ....      | 1948 |
| Rhodes, C. J. ....        | 1941 |                           |      |

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

It is my earnest hope that from the reading of this history of our beloved church will come a fresh appreciation of the spiritual heritage that is ours. Sacrifice, love and devotion have been manifested through the years by pastors and members. The rediscovery of our accomplishments as they have been blessed by God may also lead us to care intelligently and plan wisely for the future. As some one has said, "Only those can care intelligently about the future to whom the past is dear."

We cannot go forward on the momentum of past generations. We must make our own history. If we are proud of the history of the past, then we, the living, must through our own dedication and devotion, move forward to greater achievements in the days to come. This will only be possible as the total membership realizes the responsibility that rests upon every one who names the name of Christ, and who places his name upon the roll of God's church.

In these days of uncertainties and conflicting ideologies, we must look into the future with confidence, realizing that the church has the answer to the world's need, in a loving God, "who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." Therefore, let every one of us, deeply grateful for the past, and desiring to be of service to Him in the present and future, renew our vows of dedication as we pray and sing:

"I love Thy Church, O God;  
Her walls before Thee stand,  
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,  
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,  
For her my prayers ascend;  
To her my cares and toils be given,  
Till toils and cares shall end."

—IRVING M. ELLIS.

## CHAPTER XV

### *List of Members*

#### **A**

Ben E. Abernathy  
Mrs. Ben E. Abernathy  
Timothy Glenn Abernathy  
Donald Kendrick Abernathy  
Mrs. Minnie C. Abernathy  
Joseph Abernathy  
Thomas J. Abernathy  
Mrs. Thomas J. Abernathy  
Thomas J. Abernathy, Jr.  
William E. Abernathy  
Mrs. William E. Abernathy  
Robert Shields Abernathy  
Miss Betty Frances Abernathy  
Mrs. W. Y. Abresch  
Ed C. Adams  
Mrs. Ed C. Adams  
Miss Jane Wyche Adams  
David S. Adams  
Mrs. David S. Adams  
J. Leon Adams  
Mrs. Maida M. Adams  
Miss Edith Carroll Adams  
Minor R. Adams, Jr.  
Mrs. Minor R. Adams, Jr.  
Minor R. Adams, III  
Sarah Rogers Adams  
R. L. Adams  
Mrs. R. L. Adams  
Robert L. Adams, Jr.  
Simeon Huey Adams  
W. C. Adams  
Mrs. W. C. Adams  
Mrs. W. W. Akers  
John M. Akers  
Mrs. John M. Akers  
I. N. Alexander, Jr.  
Mrs. I. N. Alexander, Jr.  
Anne Grace Alexander

Miss Margaret Jane Alexander  
William Allen  
Howard S. Amos  
Mrs. Howard S. Amos  
Jacquelyn Amos  
Miss Emma Anderson  
William G. Anderson  
Mrs. William G. Anderson  
H. L. Amor  
Mrs. H. L. Amor  
A. A. Armstrong  
Mrs. A. A. Armstrong  
Arthur A. Armstrong, Jr.  
Mrs. W. Ralph Armstrong  
Cecil Axon  
Mrs. Cecil Axon

#### **B**

Otto O. Baber  
Mrs. Otto O. Baber  
B. G. Banner  
Mrs. B. G. Banner  
Joseph L. Barnett  
Mrs. Joseph L. Barnett  
Miss Betty Barnett  
Martha Barnett  
Mrs. Alice Starnes Beasley  
Mrs. Margaret Rankin Beam  
Hubert B. Belk  
Mrs. Hubert B. Belk  
Olin B. Belk  
Mrs. Olin B. Belk  
A. Gilbert Bell, Jr.  
Mrs. A. Gilbert Bell, Jr.  
Frankie Ann Bell  
Helen Gilbert Bell  
W. D. Belton, Jr.  
Mrs. W. D. Belton, Jr.  
Russell Bergmann  
Mrs. Ronald E. Biddle

E. A. Birge  
 Mrs. E. A. Birge  
 Walter A. Blaine  
 Mrs. Walter A. Blaine  
 Walter A. Blaine, Jr.  
 David Blakeley  
 Mrs. David Blakeley  
 Mrs. S. D. Bledsoe, Jr.  
 Charles Boren  
 Miss Patsy Boren  
 Mrs. Paula Blumenberg  
 Ramsey Bosserman  
 Mrs. Ramsey Bosserman  
 James Bracey  
 Dr. O. D. Boyce  
 Mrs. O. D. Boyce  
 Ellen Boyd  
 Chileon Bradley  
 R. M. Brandon  
 Mrs. R. M. Brandon  
 J. Ed Brison  
 Mrs. J. Ed Brison  
 John E. Brison, Jr.  
 Mrs. John E. Brison, Jr.  
 Mrs. Lee L. Brison  
 T. M. Brockman, Jr.  
 Mrs. T. M. Brockman, Jr.  
 Mrs. Zoe Kincaid Brockman  
 C. C. Brooks  
 Mrs. C. C. Brooks  
 Miss Grace Jean Brooks  
 William C. Brooks  
 S. James Brown  
 Mrs. S. James Brown  
 W. S. Browning  
 Mrs. W. S. Browning  
 Miss Mary Thelma Browning

# C

B. J. Caldwell  
 Dana J. Caldwell  
 Paul G. Caldwell  
 Mrs. Paul G. Caldwell  
 Robert Eugene Caldwell  
 I. A. Campbell  
 Mrs. T. W. Campbell  
 Mrs. W. M. Carothers  
 Miss Edmonia Carothers

Miss Janie Mae Carothers  
 Miss Margaret Carothers  
 Mrs. Mary R. Carpenter  
 Mary Sue Carpenter  
 Mrs. W. J. Carroll  
 Walter J. Carroll, Jr.  
 L. M. Cathey  
 Mrs. L. M. Cathey  
 Justus Cathey  
 Gerald M. Cathey  
 Mrs. Wilton Cathey  
 George Cathey  
 Thomas Cathey  
 Ralph B. Cherry  
 Mrs. Ralph B. Cherry  
 William D. Cherry  
 Ruth Irene Cherry  
 Mrs. P. A. Chester  
 R. L. Clemmer  
 Mrs. R. L. Clemmer  
 Leon Clemmer  
 Audrey Clemmer  
 Mrs. Audrey Clemmer  
 Edgar Flournoy Clemmer  
 Mrs. Edgar Flournoy Clemmer  
 Mrs. Coit Clemmer  
 S. C. Clinton  
 Mrs. S. C. Clinton  
 Miss Bobbie Brooks Clinton  
 Harry S. Cobb  
 Mrs. Harry S. Cobb  
 Miss Mildred Coble  
 L. W. Combs  
 Mrs. L. W. Combs  
 Dewey Paul Combs  
 Mrs. William Conn  
 Joseph Conn  
 Miss Ella Belle Copeland  
 Miss Georgia Copeland  
 Mrs. C. S. Cloniger  
 Miss Edna Craig  
 J. Henry Craig  
 Mrs. John Lesesne Craig  
 Mrs. J. M. Craig  
 John M. Craig, Jr.  
 J. Robert Craig  
 Mrs. T. L. Craig



Mrs. R. C. Craig  
Mary Emma Craig  
Mrs. W. Neal Craig  
W. B. Craig  
Mrs. W. B. Craig  
W. Lewis Craig  
Mrs. W. Lewis Craig  
June Craig  
Mary Lewis Craig  
Mrs. W. Ralph Craig  
R. O. Crawford  
Mrs. R. O. Crawford  
R. O. Crawford, Jr.  
Denton W. Cruse  
Mrs. Denton W. Cruse  
Mrs. John L. Currence  
John L. Currence, Jr.  
Richard Carl Currence  
Mrs. Richard Carl Currence  
George Robert Currence  
Mrs. M. H. Curry  
J. Leonard Curry

**D**

Mrs. George Dailey  
Charles F. Daniel  
Mrs. Charles F. Daniel  
W. A. Daniel  
Mrs. W. A. Daniel  
I. F. Davidson  
Mrs. I. F. Davidson  
William M. Davidson  
Dorothy Davidson  
Cecil H. Davis  
Mrs. Cecil H. Davis  
Donald Davis  
Glenn Davis  
Frank W. Davis  
Mrs. Frank W. Davis  
Frank W. Davis, Jr.  
Fred W. Davis  
Mrs. Thomas C. Davis  
Mrs. Floyd Dellinger  
Claude E. Dent  
Mrs. Claude E. Dent  
Mrs. Victor H. Dent  
Miss Minnie Lou Dent  
Robert Dent

Brice T. Dickson  
Mrs. Brice T. Dickson  
Brice T. Dickson, Jr.  
Tommie Flowers Dickson  
Mrs. Tommie Flowers Dickson  
Walter Watt Dickson  
Mary Louise Dickson  
P. R. Dickson  
Mrs. P. R. Dickson  
Ralph A. Dickson  
Mrs. Ralph A. Dickson  
Ralph A. Dickson, Jr.  
Myra Sue Dickson  
T. Wayne Dilling  
Mrs. T. Wayne Dilling  
Lee Dixon  
Mrs. Lee Dixon  
Mrs. W. J. Dixon  
Mrs. W. H. Dover  
E. N. Dozier  
Mrs. E. N. Dozier  
E. N. Dozier, Jr.  
Sally Dozier  
Miss Betty Drymon  
A. W. Dunn  
Mrs. A. W. Dunn  
A. W. Dunn, Jr.  
Miss Margaret Dunn  
Julia Mae Dunn

**E**

Mrs. H. D. Edwards  
Miss Virginia B. Edwards  
Hoyle T. Efird  
Mrs. Hoyle T. Efird  
Mrs. I. M. Ellis  
I. M. Ellis, Jr.  
Joan Fleming Ellis  
Kay Elizabeth Ellis  
Mrs. T. Gray Ellis  
Mrs. J. A. Estridge  
James L. Etheredge  
Mrs. James L. Etheredge  
Jean Shirley Etheredge

**F**

George W. Falls  
Mrs. George W. Falls  
Mrs. Harry Falls

Frances Dean Falls  
 Dr. P. R. Falls  
 Mrs. P. R. Falls  
 Miss Julia Rebecca Falls  
 John Rankin Falls  
 Mrs. John Rankin Falls  
 Ralph H. Falls  
 Mrs. Ralph H. Falls  
 J. Hay Fant  
 Mrs. J. H. Fant  
 Mrs. R. P. Farrell, Jr.  
 Lacy Faust  
 Mrs. Lacy Faust  
 David H. Faust  
 Mrs. Will I. Fayssoux  
 Mrs. Richard Ferguson  
 Ross Ferguson  
 Mrs. Ross Ferguson  
 Alvin Lee Ferguson  
 James H. Findlay  
 Lawrence R. Ford  
 Mrs. Lawrence R. Ford  
 William Henry Ford  
 Ruby Neal Ford  
 Mrs. C. H. Fort  
 E. B. Fowler, Jr.  
 Mrs. E. B. Fowler, Jr.  
 Dean A. French  
 Mrs. Dean A. French  
 Mrs. R. A. Froneberger  
 Kenneth Froneberger  
 P. C. Furbeck  
 Mrs. P. C. Furbeck

### G

Miss Pearl Gallant  
 Thomas A. Gamble  
 Mrs. Thomas A. Gamble  
 Marguerite Gamble  
 Mrs. B. B. Gardner  
 Miss Sarah M. Gardner  
 Warren Y. Gardner  
 Mrs. Warren Y. Gardner  
 Miss Mary Jane Gardner  
 P. W. Garland  
 Mrs. P. W. Garland  
 James Boyce Garland  
 Mrs. M. Kathleen Garmon

William Perry Garmon  
 W. B. Garrison  
 Mrs. W. B. Garrison  
 W. B. Garrison, Jr.  
 Luther Snyder Garrison  
 H. M. Giles  
 Mrs. H. M. Giles  
 Harry M. Giles, Jr.  
 David Gillespie  
 Mrs. David Gillespie  
 Mrs. Gus Ginn  
 Frank Gettys  
 Miss Carrie E. Glenn  
 George G. Glenn  
 Mrs. George G. Glenn  
 John David Glenn  
 Mrs. John David Glenn  
 Mrs. Henry F. Glenn  
 Dr. Henry F. Glenn, Jr.  
 Mrs. Henry F. Glenn, Jr.  
 Betty Jean Glenn  
 R. A. Gordon  
 Mrs. R. A. Gordon  
 John Boyd Gordon  
 Robert Andrew Gordon, Jr.  
 Miss Annie Gray  
 Robert J. Gray, Jr.  
 Mrs. Robert J. Gray, Jr.  
 Robert J. Gray, III  
 Mrs. Norris Greene  
 Harry G. Grier  
 Mrs. Harry G. Grier  
 Harry G. Grier, Jr.  
 Robert Grier  
 Mrs. Robert Grier  
 Roger M. Grier  
 Mrs. Roger M. Grier  
 T. G. Grier  
 Mrs. T. G. Grier  
 Mrs. V. G. Grier  
 A. F. Grigg  
 Mrs. A. F. Grigg  
 Patsy Lynn Grigg  
 Samuel G. Grigg  
 Mrs. Samuel G. Grigg  
 Reggie Grigg  
 W. F. Grigg

Mrs. W. F. Grigg  
Linda Jane Grigg  
Miss Miriam Groves  
Jean Abney Groves

**H**

William E Hanks  
C. D. Hardin  
Mrs. C. D. Hardin  
C. Dwydell Hardin, Jr.  
C. C. Harmon  
Mrs. C. C. Harmon  
C. C. Harmon, Jr.  
Miss Ida Harmon  
John Oscar Harmon  
Haskell H. Harper  
Mrs. Haskell H. Harper  
Ralph R. Harper  
Mrs. Ralph R. Harper  
Mrs. W J. Harper  
Jesse G. Harris  
Z. B. Harry  
Mrs. Z. B. Harry  
Miss Nannie Harry  
J. L. Hart  
Mrs. J. L. Hart  
Billy Hart  
Mary Ruth Hart  
Mrs. Jennie Land Hawkins  
William Hawkins  
Charles B. Hawkins  
Mrs. Charles B. Hawkins  
Miss Ollie Hayes  
Miss Rubye Hayes  
Cecil Hayes  
Mrs. James H. Henderlite  
Mrs. Annie Lee Henderson  
Mrs. W. R. Henderson  
Richard H. Henderson  
Mrs. Richard H. Henderson  
Mrs. Myrtle Hayes Henley  
Robert Henkle  
George Herman  
Mrs. George Herman  
P. G. Hill  
Mrs. P. G. Hill  
Robert Golden Hill  
Miss Lola Hipp

Mrs. Prentice Hodge  
Mrs. Clyde Holder  
J. W. Holland  
Von W. Hollinger  
Mrs. Von W. Hollinger  
Robert E. Hollinger  
James Hollinger  
Jean Hollinger  
Mrs. S. J. Hood  
Robert H. Hood  
William Hood  
Mrs. John Sidney Hood  
H. G. Horne  
Mrs. H. G. Horne  
Mrs. James B. Horton  
Miss Mary John Howe  
Dann Charlton Howe  
Thomas Hoyle  
C. E. Huffstetler  
Miss Cora Spence Huffstetler  
J. Howard Huffstetler  
Mrs. Charles Huffstetler  
Harold Huffstetler  
Mrs. Harold Huffstetler  
Mrs. Parks R. Huffstetler  
Ashley Huffstetler  
Lawrence Huffstetler  
Mrs. Lawrence Huffstetler  
Miss Elizabeth Huffstetler  
Miss Jennie Meek Huffstetler  
Mrs. W. T. Humphrey  
Clyde Humphrey  
Lloyd Humphrey  
J. A. Hunter, Jr.  
Mrs. J. A. Hunter, Jr.  
James Hunter  
J. A. Hunter, III  
Mrs. Mattie Hunter  
Miss Nancy White Hunter

**J**

Miss Edith Jackson  
Miss Bess Jackson  
E. Earl Jackson  
Mrs. E. Earl Jackson  
Miss Mildred W. Jackson  
Miss Sarah Louise Jackson  
E. Earl Jackson, Jr.

John Frank Jackson  
 Miss Mary C. Jackson  
 John M. Jackson  
 Mrs. John M. Jackson  
 Sue Jackson  
 Philip Jackson  
 Mrs. Philip Jackson  
 Mrs. H. C. Jackson  
 Mrs. R. A. Jackson  
 Eugene Jackson  
 R. M. Jackson  
 John Alfred Jackson  
 Mrs. John Alfred Jackson  
 Mrs. J. E. Jackson  
 Miss Ruth Jackson  
 James G. Jackson  
 Mrs. James G. Jackson  
 James G. Jackson, Jr.  
 Mrs. William H. Jarman  
 Boyd A. Johnson, Jr.  
 Mrs. Boyd A. Johnson, Jr.  
 Robert E. Johnson  
 Mrs. Robert E. Johnson  
 Rufus M. Johnston  
 Mrs. Rufus M. Johnston  
 Mrs. Rufus M. Johnston, Jr.  
 Carmen Johnston  
 Rufus Manfred Johnston  
 Mrs. Arthur C. Jones  
 Dr. W. M. Jones  
 Mrs. W. M. Jones  
 Mrs. Laurence G. Jones  
 Laurence G. Jones, Jr.  
 Mrs. Laurence G. Jones, Jr.  
 Mrs. Walter L. H. Jones  
 David Jones  
 Beaufort Jones  
 W. A. Julian  
 Mrs. W. A. Julian  
 James Justice

**K**

Miss Aline Kaneer  
 Mrs. William Keighley  
 B. A. Kelly  
 Mrs. B. A. Kelly  
 R. J. Kelly  
 Mrs. R. J. Kelly

Roy W. Kelly  
 Mrs. Roy W. Kelly  
 Robert Kelly  
 Richard Kelly  
 Ed S. Kempton  
 Mrs. Ed S. Kempton  
 J. L. Kendrick  
 Mrs. J. L. Kendrick  
 Miss Martha Kendrick  
 Miss Margaret Kendrick  
 Howard Kendrick  
 Mrs. Howard Kendrick  
 C. Leonard Kendrick  
 Mrs. C. Leonard Kendrick  
 Leonard Kendrick, Jr.  
 Glenn Kendrick  
 Mrs. Glenn Kendrick  
 Mrs. Ralph Kendrick  
 Miss Emily Kendrick  
 Ralph Kendrick, Jr.  
 J. H. Kennedy  
 C. C. Kimbrell  
 Mrs. C. C. Kimbrell  
 C. C. Kimbrell, Jr.  
 Mrs. C. C. Kimbrell, Jr.  
 W. Duke Kimbrell  
 Miss Jean Carolyn Kimbrell  
 Mrs. W. F. Kincaid  
 Robert Kincaid  
 Paul P. Kincaid  
 Mrs. Paul P. Kincaid  
 Paul P. Kincaid, Jr.  
 Gordon Kincaid  
 Mrs. Gordon Kincaid  
 Sam A. Kindley  
 Mrs. Sam A. Kindley  
 Mrs. Allen G. King  
 Allen G. King, Jr.  
 Miss Anne King  
 Samuel L. King  
 Ray A. Kiser  
 Mrs. Ray A. Kiser  
 Mrs. Walter A. Klutz  
 Walter A. Klutz, Jr.  
 Mrs. Walter A. Klutz, Jr.  
 George W. Knox, Jr.  
 Mrs. Hilda Kreutzer

## L

Mrs. D. R. LaFar  
D. R. LaFar, Jr.  
Mrs. D. R. LaFar, Jr.  
David R. LaFar, III  
Mary Lee Nelson LaFar  
Dan Senn LaFar  
Mrs. Dan Senn LaFar  
Dan Senn LaFar, Jr.  
Mrs. W. R. Land  
Miss Sadie Land  
Mrs. Louie Lattimore  
W. D. Lawson, Jr.  
W. D. Lawson, III  
Mrs. Hattie Lay  
John M. Leech  
Mrs. John M. Leech  
Mrs. William E. Leigh  
Carroll Joan Leigh  
Mrs. J. W. LeGrande  
Mrs. T. E. Leavitt  
Mrs. W. E. Leeper  
W. E. Leeper, Jr.  
Joseph Stowe Leeper  
Miss Isabel Leeper  
George R. Lewis  
Robert F. Lewis  
Mrs. Robert F. Lewis  
Robert F. Lewis, Jr.  
J. E. Lindsay  
J. E. Lindsay, Jr.  
Mrs. J. E. Lindsay, Jr.  
Marcia Dean Lindsay  
Doris Ann Lindsay  
H. Price Lineberger  
Mrs. H. Price Lineberger  
Miss Martha Ann Lineberger  
Miss Mildred Lineberger  
Mrs. Charles I. Loftin  
Charles I. Loftin, Jr.  
Mrs. Charles I. Loftin, Jr.  
Mrs. John Frank Loftin  
Mrs. E. L. Lowie  
Nicholas Lowie  
Samuel D. Love  
Mrs. Samuel D. Love  
W. T. Love, Jr.

## M

Mrs. H. S. Mackie  
T. M. Mackorell  
Mrs. T. M. Mackorell  
Miss Sybil Mackorell  
James Mackorell  
David Mackorell  
Joseph Maines  
Mrs. Joseph Maines  
Mrs. J. P. Manley  
J. P. Manley, Jr.  
Mrs. John D. Marceron  
Miss Lingard Martin  
W. Eugene Mason  
John C. Mason, Jr.  
Mrs. John C. Mason, Jr.  
John C. Mason, III  
Mary Elizabeth Mason  
Mrs. Mary Workman Mason  
J. H. Matthews  
Mrs. J. H. Matthews  
Miss Elizabeth Matthews  
J. H. Matthews, Jr.  
Mrs. J. H. Matthews, Jr.  
Frank Matthews  
Mrs. M. C. Mayes  
Miss Louise Mayes  
Archie N. Means  
J. A. Meek  
Mrs. J. A. Meek  
Andrew S. Melvin  
Mrs. Andrew S. Melvin  
Ann Melvin  
Adam J. Melvin  
Mrs. Adam J. Melvin  
J. A. Melvin, Jr.  
Mrs. J. A. Melvin, Jr.  
Miss Jean Melvin  
Robert Bruce Melvin  
J. A. Melvin, III  
Mrs. Andrew Medlin  
J. B. Merrill  
Mrs. J. B. Merrill  
Stephen Merrill  
Doris Ann Merrill  
Mrs. William F. Michael  
Mrs. Jasper Miller



W. K. Mingis  
 Mrs. W. K. Mingis  
 W. T. Mingus  
 Mrs. W. T. Mingus  
 Eugene Mingus  
 W. T. Mingus, Jr.  
 James Roger Mingus  
 Carl M. Moore  
 Mrs. Carl M. Moore  
 Miss Shirley Moore  
 Reuben Moore  
 Mrs. Reuben Moore  
 R. D. Moore  
 Mrs. R. D. Moore  
 W. P. Moore  
 Robert B. Moorhead, Jr.  
 George D. Moorhead  
 M. T. Morris  
 Mrs. M. T. Morris  
 M. T. Morris, Jr.  
 Mrs. John T. Morris  
 W. S. Morris  
 Mrs. W. S. Morris  
 Mrs. S. S. Morris  
 S. E. Morrison  
 Mrs. S. E. Morrison  
 S. E. Morrison, Jr.  
 Catherine Morrison  
 Sarah Morrison  
 Durward Morrow  
 Mrs. Durward Morrow  
 Miss Martha Ann Morrow  
 Benjamin Morrow  
 Mrs. Norman Morrow  
 Norman Morrow, Jr.  
 Miss Caroline Morrow  
 S. T. Moser  
 Charles A. Moss  
 Mrs. Charles A. Moss  
 Charles A. Moss, Jr.  
 Mrs. Alberta Muckenfuss  
 John M. Mullen  
 Mrs. John M. Mullen  
 Henry Spears Mullen  
 Miss Patricia Mullen

## Mc

Mrs. C. J. McArver  
 Grady L. McCarter  
 Mrs. Grady L. McCarter  
 Robert W. McCarter  
 Mrs. Robert W. McCarter  
 Miss Annette McCarter  
 Neely Dixon McCarter  
 Dr. W. W. McChesney  
 Mrs. W. W. McChesney  
 R. C. McCluney  
 Mrs. R. C. McCluney  
 R. C. McCluney, Jr.  
 Ruth Baber McCluney  
 Mrs. D. E. McConnell  
 Dr. H. R. McConnell  
 Mrs. H. R. McConnell  
 Harvey McConnell  
 Yates McConnell  
 Miss Annie McCullough  
 J. R. McGerrigle  
 Mrs. J. R. McGerrigle  
 Miss Betty McGerrigle  
 Miss Margaret McGerrigle  
 William McGerrigle  
 Miss Martha Ellen McGinnis  
 Samuel McKay  
 W. B. McKee  
 Mrs. W. B. McKee  
 William McKee  
 Wilbur B. McKee  
 Mrs. Wilbur B. McKee  
 Alston M. McKeithan  
 Mrs. Alston M. McKeithan  
 Miss Alston McKeithan  
 Barbara McKeithan  
 George F. McLaughen  
 Mrs. George McLaughen  
 Miss Elizabeth Sue McLaughen  
 Leon Leslie McLean  
 Mrs. Leon Leslie McLean  
 Rose McLean  
 Nancy Dean McLean  
 Mrs. Leon T. McLean  
 Robert E. McLean  
 Mrs. Robert E. McLean  
 Robert E. McLean, Jr.

Mrs. R. C. McLean  
J. E. McNair  
Mrs. J. E. McNair  
J. E. McNair, Jr.

**N**

John S. Neely  
Mrs. John S. Neely  
John S. Neely, Jr.  
Mrs. R. A. Nichols  
J. R. Norris  
Mrs. J. R. Norris

**O**

Mrs. Thomas Oliver  
James F. Ormand  
Mrs. James F. Ormand  
Rosemary Ormand  
James F. Ormand, Jr.  
William E. Owen  
Mrs. William E. Owen  
William Donald Owen  
Charles F. Orr  
Frances Ann O'Shields

**P**

Ralph Padgett  
Mrs. Ralph Padgett  
D. A. Page  
R. D. Park  
John W. Parks  
Mrs. John W. Parks  
Mrs. Nannie A. Parrott  
Mrs. L. N. Patrick  
Mrs. Ralph C. Patrick  
Dr. William M. Patrick  
Miss Mary Patrick  
Samuel Patrick  
William Henry Patrick  
Mrs. William Henry Patrick  
William Henry Patrick, Jr.  
Robert W. Patrick  
A. V. Patsch  
Mrs. A. V. Patsch  
A. V. Patsch, Jr.  
E. L. Patterson  
Mrs. E. L. Patterson  
George V. Patterson  
Mrs. George V. Patterson  
J. G. Patterson

Mrs. J. G. Patterson  
J. G. Patterson, Jr.  
Jacob A. Payne  
Mrs. Jacob A. Payne  
Otis Peach  
Mrs. Otis Peach  
John C. Peden  
Mrs. John C. Peden  
Miss Jennie M. Pegram  
Kell Pettus  
R. H. Philhower  
Mrs. R. H. Philhower  
Fred Petree  
Mrs. Fred Petree  
Helen Petree  
Mrs. Ernest Porter  
B. W. Pressley  
Mrs. B. W. Pressley  
B. W. Pressley, Jr.  
Mrs. Vernon Price  
Willis A. Price  
Mrs. Willis A. Price  
Willis A. Price, Jr.  
Mrs. Myrtle Putnam  
Samuel Putnam

**Q**

Hugh A. Query  
Mrs. Hugh A. Query

**R**

Caldwell Ragan  
Mrs. Caldwell Ragan  
Caldwell Ragan, Jr.  
Miss Jocelyn Sikes Ragan  
Mrs. D. C. Ragan  
Dan Ragan  
Miss Helen Ragan  
D. P. Ragan  
Mrs. D. P. Ragan  
D. P. Ragan, Jr.  
Mrs. D. P. Ragan, Jr.  
Wilson Ragan  
Mrs. Wilson Ragan  
G. W. Ragan, Jr.  
Mrs. G. W. Ragan, Jr.  
J. A. Ragan  
Clinton P. Rankin  
Mrs. Clinton P. Rankin

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| E. J. Rankin            | Mrs. Coit E. Rhyne            |
| Miss Lucille Rankin     | Martha A. Rhyne               |
| Miss Emma Rankin        | Dane S. Rhyne                 |
| James R. Rankin         | Mrs. Dane S. Rhyne            |
| Mrs. James R. Rankin    | D. Samuel Rhyne, Jr.          |
| James R. Rankin, Jr.    | Fred S. Rhyne                 |
| John O. Rankin, Jr.     | Mrs. Fred S. Rhyne            |
| Thomas Rankin           | J. Albert Rhyne               |
| Margaret Rankin         | Miss Leila Rhyne              |
| Winifred Rankin         | Mrs. Walter G. Rhyne          |
| Henry M. Rankin         | Mrs. J. V. Richardson, Jr.    |
| R. Winchester Rankin    | Mrs. Fred D. Riddle           |
| Robert Wray Rankin      | Fred D. Riddle, Jr.           |
| Mrs. Robert Wray Rankin | John V. Riddle                |
| Mrs. Vivian Rankin      | Joseph Saye Riddle            |
| Joe T. Rankin           | Mrs. Joseph Saye Riddle       |
| Miss Virginia Rankin    | Mrs. George M. Riddle         |
| W. T. Rankin, Jr.       | Nell Patrick Riddle           |
| Mrs. W. T. Rankin, Jr.  | Dr. W. M. Roberts             |
| W. T. Rankin, III       | Mrs. W. M. Roberts            |
| Miss Lula Rankin        | William S. Roberts            |
| Fred A. Ratchford       | Frank McK. Roberts            |
| Mrs. Fred A. Ratchford  | Clarence E. Roberts, Jr.      |
| J. Ross Ratchford       | Mrs. Clarence E. Roberts, Jr. |
| Mrs. J. Ross Ratchford  | W. H. Robertson               |
| Miss Ollie Ratchford    | Mrs. W. H. Robertson          |
| G. Rufus Ratchford      | Anne Robertson                |
| Mrs. G. Rufus Ratchford | Alfred S. Robinson            |
| G. Rufus Ratchford, Jr. | Mrs. Alfred S. Robinson       |
| Dan Ratchford           | Miss Donna Robinson           |
| Mrs. T. A. Ratchford    | Suzanne S. Robinson           |
| T. K. Rea               | Mrs. Charles M. Robinson      |
| Mrs. T. K. Rea          | Charles M. Robinson, Jr.      |
| Miss Lillian Rea        | Mrs. John C. Robinson         |
| Charles William Rea     | Mrs. J. Lee Robinson          |
| Carolyn Rea             | Dr. J. Lee Robinson, Jr.      |
| Martin S. Reid          | Mrs. J. Lee Robinson, Jr.     |
| Mrs. Martin S. Reid     | Florence N. Robinson          |
| Ann Shuford Reid        | Ralph S. Robinson             |
| H. L. Reynolds          | Mrs. Ralph S. Robinson        |
| Mrs. H. L. Reynolds     | Elbridge C. Robinson          |
| C. J. Rhodes            | Miss Ann Robinson             |
| Earl D. Rhyne           | Ralph S. Robinson, Jr.        |
| Mrs. Malcolm S. Rhyne   | Kelly Robinson                |
| Malcolm S. Rhyne, Jr.   | Mrs. Kelly Robinson           |
| Miss Alma Rhyne         | Miss Annie May Robinson       |
| Julius R. Rhyne         | Marvin Robinson               |

Quenton Robinson  
Myra Robinson  
Mrs. S. A. Robinson  
S. A. Robinson, Jr.  
William L. Robinson  
Mrs. William L. Robinson  
Miss Douglas Robinson  
Mrs. Marshall Rollins  
Robert N. Rosebro  
Mrs. Robert N. Rosebro  
Harry Rutter  
Mrs. Harry Rutter  
Jack W. Rudisill  
Mrs. Jack W. Rudisill

**S**

Mrs. Clarence D. Sahms  
Mrs. Andrew Sanford  
Mrs. R. Lee Settlemyer  
Theodore Shelton  
W. A. Sherard  
Mrs. W. A. Sherard  
Mrs. D. R. Shields  
Dr. Dan R. Shields, Jr.  
L. Jerry Shive  
Mrs. L. Jerry Shive  
Lowell Shive  
Verne Shive  
Mrs. Boyce Shuford  
Mrs. Ella Mae Sherrill  
W. A. Sifford  
R. P. Siler  
Mrs. R. P. Siler  
R. P. Siler, Jr.  
Anne Siler  
J. E. Simpson  
Ralph H. Simpson  
Mrs. Addie Sisk  
G. W. Sloan  
Mrs. G. W. Sloan  
Barbara Ann Sloan  
Jean Sloan  
Cecil I. Smith  
Mrs. Cecil I. Smith  
Harold L. Smith  
Mrs. Harold L. Smith  
Harold L. Smith, Jr.  
Miss Laura Smith

Mrs. Ernest Smith  
Mrs. Frank Smith  
Mrs. Floyd E. Smith  
Mrs. Fred L. Smyre  
Miss Mary Sexton Smyre  
Fred L. Smyre, Jr.  
Mrs. Fred L. Smyre, Jr.  
Mrs. I. W. Spake  
William R. Sparrow  
Mrs. William R. Sparrow  
Miss Ann Baity Sparrow  
Arthur M. Spencer  
Mrs. Arthur M. Spencer  
Miss Mary Faye Spencer  
Arthur M. Spencer, Jr.  
Mrs. Arthur M. Spencer, Jr.  
Roscoe S. Spencer  
Gray H. Spencer  
Mrs. Gray H. Spencer  
W. Arthur Sprouse  
Mrs. W. Arthur Sprouse  
Fred W. Spurrier  
Mrs. Fred W. Spurrier  
Miss Roxanna Spurrier  
Katie Lee Spurrier  
P. H. Spurrier  
Mrs. P. H. Spurrier  
P. H. Spurrier, Jr.  
John L. Stacy  
Clarke R. Starnes  
Mrs. Clarke R. Starnes  
Clarke R. Starnes, Jr.  
Mrs. J. Frank Starnes  
Mrs. Louise Boyd Starnes  
S. M. Stewart  
Mrs. S. M. Stewart  
Miss Jean Stewart  
G. B. Stowe  
Mrs. G. B. Stowe  
Miss Hattie Stowe  
S. A. Stowe  
Mrs. S. A. Stowe  
June Carroll Stowe  
Roger Stowe  
Samuel O. Strange  
Mrs. Samuel O. Strange  
Mrs. James E. Stroupe

A. L. Sudduth  
 Mrs. A. L. Sudduth  
 A. L. Sudduth, Jr.  
 Mrs. A. L. Sudduth, Jr.  
 Mrs. Mamie Stowe Suther  
 Mrs. J. N. Summerell  
 Ellen Summerell  
 Ann Mitchell Summerell

**T**

Mrs. E. G. Talley  
 Russell Talley  
 Mrs. Russell Talley  
 Joseph G. Talley  
 Robert H. Talley  
 Mrs. Robert H. Talley  
 William T. Talley  
 Mrs. William T. Talley  
 George K. Tate  
 Mrs. George K. Tate  
 Robah G. Tate  
 J. Caswell Taylor  
 Mrs. J. Caswell Taylor  
 J. Caswell Taylor, Jr.  
 James L. Taylor  
 Mrs. James L. Taylor  
 J. L. Templeton  
 Mrs. J. L. Templeton  
 Richard Earl Thomas  
 Mrs. Richard Earl Thomas  
 Elmore Thomas  
 Mrs. Elmore Thomas  
 Charles S. Thompson  
 Mrs. Charles S. Thompson  
 J. Henry Thompson  
 Mrs. J. Henry Thompson  
 J. Henry Thompson, Jr.  
 Jerry Thompson  
 P. H. Thompson  
 Mrs. Jessie M. Thompson  
 Mrs. J. F. Thomson  
 Miss Margaret Tiddy  
 Joseph W. Timberlake  
 Mrs. Joseph W. Timberlake  
 Mrs. W. E. Todd  
 Mrs. Frost Torrence  
 Charlton K. Torrence  
 Mrs. Charlton K. Torrence

Miss Jean Marie Torrence  
 Charlton K. Torrence, Jr.  
 Miss Laura May Tomlin  
 William H. Tomlin  
 Mrs. R. G. Toomey  
 Farida Toomey  
 R. G. Toomey, Jr.

**U**

Miss Doris Upham  
 Clarence Underwood  
 E. Raymond Underwood  
 Mrs. E. Raymond Underwood  
 E. Raymond Underwood, Jr.  
 John McElroy Underwood

**V**

Irvin Van Dyke  
 Mrs. Irvin Van Dyke  
 H. M. Van Sleen  
 Mrs. H. M. Van Sleen  
 H. M. Van Sleen, Jr.  
 Albert Van Sleen  
 Mrs. Albert Van Sleen  
 Mrs. U. C. Vinson  
 Miss Elizabeth Vinson

**W**

M. B. Wales  
 Mrs. M. B. Wales  
 Miss Sarah Wales  
 Miss Mary Olive Walker  
 Archie Wakefield  
 James Walton, Jr.  
 Mrs. James Walton, Jr.  
 O. L. Ward  
 Mrs. O. L. Ward  
 Mrs. J. Y. Ward  
 Ernest R. Warren  
 Miss Nell H. Warren  
 Louise Warren  
 O. A. Warren  
 Mrs. O. A. Warren  
 Nancy G. Warren  
 Miss Lottie Warren  
 Mrs. W. Y. Warren  
 W. Y. Warren, Jr.  
 R. P. Washam  
 Mrs. R. P. Washam



F. M. Waters  
Mrs. F. M. Waters  
T. Craig Watson  
Mrs. T. Craig Watson  
Miss Jennie Craig Watson  
Mrs. Harry Welsted  
Mrs. W. L. Wetzell  
W. L. Wetzell, Jr.  
Mrs. W. L. Wetzell, Jr.  
Charles A. Wetzell  
R. J. Wheeler  
Mrs. R. J. Wheeler  
Miss Jean Wheeler  
R. J. Wheeler, Jr.  
H. P. Whisnant  
Mrs. H. P. Whisnant  
Ann Mason Whisnant  
Mrs. Ollie White  
Mrs. J. O. White  
Mrs. Hugh E. White  
H. Edward White  
Mrs. R. W. White  
Mrs. M. T. Whitesides  
T. P. Whitesides  
Mrs. George G. Willis, Jr.  
J. A. Wilkins  
Mrs. J. A. Wilkins  
J. A. Wilkins, Jr.  
Robert J. Wilkins  
Donald M. Wilkins  
J. A. Wilcox  
Mrs. J. A. Wilcox  
J. A. Wilcox, Jr.  
Mrs. J. A. Wilcox, Jr.  
Quay D. Williford  
Mrs. Quay D. Williford  
Wade Hampton Williford  
Mrs. Wade Hampton Williford  
Miss Essie M. Wilson  
Miss Pearl Wilson

T. L. Wilson  
Mrs. T. L. Wilson  
T. L. Wilson, Jr.  
Eleanor Rose Wilson  
W. L. Wilson  
Mrs. W. L. Wilson  
W. Danford Wilson  
Elizabeth A. Wilson  
Dorothy Wilson  
H. G. Winget  
Mrs. H. G. Winget  
J. S. Winget  
Mrs. J. S. Winget  
Mrs. D. L. Wood  
Dr. M. E. Woody, Jr.  
Mrs. M. E. Woody, Jr.  
Earl C. Workman  
Mary Jo Workman  
Kathryn E. Workman  
Thomas R. Workman  
J. H. Workman  
James M. Workman  
William E. Wyche  
Mrs. William E. Wyche  
L. L. Wyss  
Mrs. L. L. Wyss

**Y**

Mrs. Carl Yancey  
David Yarbrough  
Mrs. David Yarbrough  
Doris Anne Yarbrough  
Jack Yates

**Z**

Charles B. Zeigler  
Mrs. Charles B. Zeigler  
Branson E. Zeigler  
Mrs. Branson E. Zeigler  
Charles E. Zeigler  
Mrs. Charles E. Zeigler

## MEMBERS AT PIEDMONT CHAPEL

**B**

Mrs. Ethel Terry Bolick  
Howard Lee Bolick

**C**

Betty Faye Clemmer  
Miss Edith Clemmer  
Doris Cordell  
Therman Cordell

**D**

Miss Edith Deaton  
Clifford M. David, Jr.

**F**

Billy Fore  
Jack William Fore

**G**

Carrol Griffie  
Odell Griffie  
Patsy Griffie

**H**

Cecil Milton Hendricks  
Cleve Richard Hendricks  
William Howe  
Shirley A. Howe  
Nancy Lorraine Huffstetler

**J**

Mrs. Eva Bell Johnson  
David Johnson  
William Jacob Jones

**K**

Miss Hilda J. Kincaid

**L**

William Henderson Lewis

**M**

Ola Jean Mason  
Estelle Mason  
Elizabeth Mason  
Mrs. Stacey Meyers  
Johnny Montgomery

**P**

Billy Ray Parker  
Evelyn Joyce Parker  
Max Parker  
Margaret Parker  
Richard Thomas Philbeck  
Carl Phillips  
Mrs. Carl Phillips

**W**

Bobbie Sue Welch  
Mrs. Bobby Williams

## NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

**A**

Mrs. Laura Page Adams  
Lacy E. Adams  
Kay Frances Allison

**B**

Mrs. John E. Benedict  
Mrs. Richard A. Bigger  
Dr. W. W. Bindeman, Jr.  
L. A. Blankenship  
Mrs. L. A. Blankenship  
Frank Boyd  
Mrs. Frank Boyd  
Miss Addie Mae Brawley  
Mrs. F. W. Brawley  
Jack Brawley

Robert S. Brawley  
Hazel Bustle  
Harold Bustle  
Leland Butler  
Mrs. M. C. Butler  
A. C. Butler  
Mrs. A. C. Butler

**C**

Mrs. John C. W. Campbell  
J. Edwin Costner  
Mrs. Wales O. Cox

**D**

George W. Dailey  
Miss Ruth Dickson

**E**

Mrs. C. R. Englemann  
Paul L. Erlewein  
Mrs. Paul L. Erlewein

**F**

Mervyn L. Filiponni  
Lamar Ford

**G**

Peter Woods Garland, Jr.

**H**

Mrs. William R. Harrison  
James H. Henderlite, Jr.  
Wayne Howe

**J**

H. C. Jackson, Jr.  
Mrs. J. R. Jenkins  
M. T. Jonas  
Mrs. M. T. Jonas  
Lucy Anne Jonas  
A. C. Jones, Jr.  
J. Lattimer Jones

**M**

D. K. Miller  
Mrs. D. K. Miller  
O. P. Matthews  
Mrs. O. P. Matthews  
Mrs. James B. More  
Miss Miriam Murphy  
Miss Mary Miller

**Mc**

Mrs. L. C. McCarley  
Edward T. McConnell  
J. Daniel McConnell

**P**

Edward M. Parrott  
Mrs. Alfred Pollock  
Mrs. Keith Pooser  
Miss Fannette Pooser

**R**

Hubert Ramsaur  
Mrs. Rufus A. Rankin  
Samuel Rankin  
Vivian P. Rankin  
Robert E. Ratchford  
Mrs. R. M. Reid  
Robert McD Reid  
Mrs. John Reid  
Mrs. James L. Robinson

**S**

Mrs. H. Edward Siebert  
Mrs. William L. Sime  
William Boyd Starnes

**T**

Charles Talley  
Elmer Templeton  
J. Winston Timberlake, Jr.  
Mrs. G. Nelson Tower, Jr.

**V**

Frank Virgin

**W**

Forrest Waller  
Mrs. Forrest Waller  
Charles D. Whisnant  
J. R. Warren  
Mrs. V. L. Wineberger





















